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THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.



THE

STATISTICAL

ACCOUNT

OF

SCOTLAND

AND



THE  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

DRAWN UP FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS  
OF THE  
*MINISTERS*

OF THE  
DIFFERENT PARISHES.

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BY SIR JOHN SINCLAIR, BART.

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VOLUME NINTH.

*"Ad consilium de republica dandum, caput est nosse rempublicam."*  
CICERO, de Orat. lib. ii.

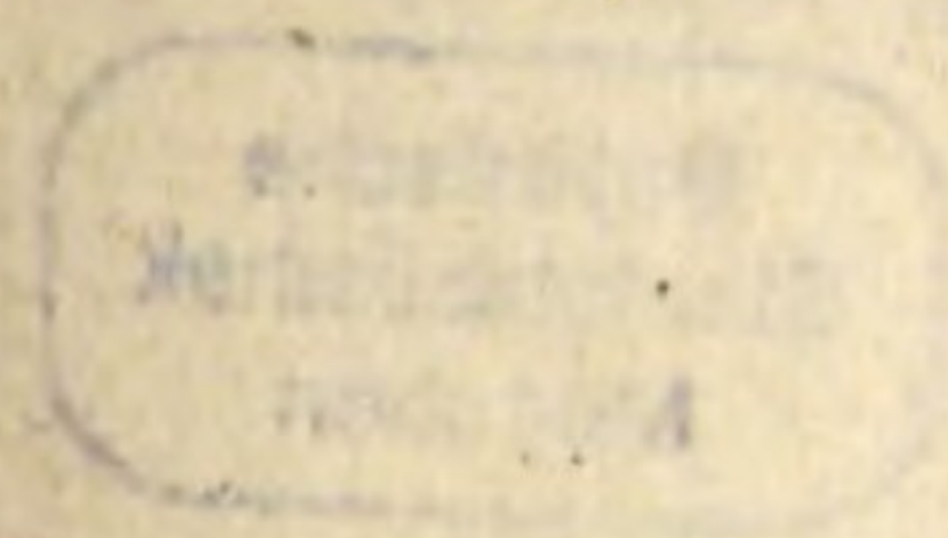
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# C O N T E N T S.

| No.           | Name.           | Population in 1755. | in 1791-3. | Increase. | Decr. | Page. |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|
| 1             | Rutherglen, -   | 988                 | 1860       | 872       | —     | 1     |
| 2             | Buchanan, -     | 1699                | 1111       | —         | 588   | 12    |
| 3             | Golfpy, -       | *1790               | 1700       | —         | 90    | 26    |
| 4             | Logie and Pert, | 696                 | 999        | 303       | —     | 33    |
| 5             | Erskine, -      | 829                 | 808        | —         | 21    | 58    |
| 6             | Melrose, -      | 2322                | 2446       | 124       | —     | 77    |
| 7             | Innerkip, -     | 1590                | 1280       | —         | 310   | 94    |
| 8             | Birse, -        | 1126                | 1253       | 127       | —     | 103   |
| 9             | Kingoldrum, -   | 780                 | 600        | —         | 180   | 131   |
| 10            | Abernyte, -     | 258                 | 345        | 87        | —     | 138   |
| 11            | Birnie, -       | 525                 | 402        | —         | 123   | 155   |
| 12            | Kilmory, -      | 2277                | 3259       | 982       | —     | 165   |
| 13            | Lhanbryd, -     | 690                 | 777        | 87        | —     | 172   |
| 14            | New Deer, -     | 2313                | 2800       | 487       | —     | 184   |
| 15            | Kinnettles, -   | 616                 | 621        | 5         | —     | 197   |
| 16            | Balmerino, -    | 565                 | 703        | 138       | —     | 216   |
| 17            | Clunie, -       | 905                 | 1037       | 132       | —     | 225   |
| 18            | Cranston, -     | 725                 | 839        | 114       | —     | 277   |
| 19            | Kilconquhar, -  | 2131                | 2013       | —         | 118   | 287   |
| 20            | Muckart, -      | 535                 | 526        | —         | 9     | 303   |
| 21            | Tongland, -     | 537                 | 520        | —         | 17    | 312   |
| 22            | St Monance, -   | †780                | 832        | 52        | —     | 334   |
| 23            | Kilmaurs, -     | 1094                | 1147       | 53        | —     | 350   |
| 24            | Stewartown, -   | 2819                | ‡3000      | 181       | —     | 377   |
| Carried over, |                 | 28590               | 30878      | 3744      | 4156  |       |

\* This seems to be exaggerated, as Mr Keith says the number in 1750 was only 1302.

† This, for the reasons assigned by Mr Gillies, seems to be exaggerated.

‡ Mr Maxwell does not ascertain the precise number; but as he mentions that the town of Stewartown "has increased some hundreds, since he was settled," (which was in 1758) the population in 1793 is probably rather above than below 3000.



| No. | Name.                        | Population in 1755. | in 1791-3. | Increase. | Dec. | Page |
|-----|------------------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|------|------|
|     | Brought over,                | 28590               | 30878      | 3744      | 1456 |      |
| 25  | Avendale or<br>Strathaven, - | 3551                | 3343       | —         | 208  | 382  |
| 26  | Maryton, -                   | 633                 | 529        | —         | 104  | 399  |
| 27  | Kirknewton, -                | 1157                | 812        | —         | 345  | 407  |
| 28  | Dry'sdale, -                 | 1097                | 1600       | 503       | —    | 418  |
| 29  | Bourtie, -                   | 525                 | 450        | —         | 75   | 434  |
| 30  | Crail, -                     | 2173                | 1710       | —         | 463  | 439  |
| 31  | Fyvie, -                     | 2528                | 2194       | —         | 334  | 459  |
| 32  | Dron, -                      | 598                 | 450        | —         | 148  | 466  |
| 33  | Caputh, -                    | 2048                | 2045       | —         | 3    | 485  |
| 34  | Logie-Coldstone,             | 1243                | 1182       | —         | 61   | 510  |
| 35  | Graitney, -                  | 1051                | 1810       | 759       | —    | 518  |
| 36  | Dunlop, -                    | 796                 | 779        | —         | 17   | 533  |
| 37  | Grange, -                    | 1797                | 1572       | —         | 225  | 550  |
| 38  | Crieff, -                    | 1414                | 2640       | 1226      | —    | 583  |
| 39  | Inverness, -                 | 9730                | *10527     | 797       | —    | 603  |
|     | Totals,                      | 55931               | 59521      | 7029      | 3439 |      |
|     |                              |                     | 55931      | 3439      |      |      |
|     | Increase in 1791-3,          |                     | 3590       | 3590      |      |      |

\* In the population table of Inverness, 2597 are denominated married *persons*, probably instead of married *couples*; in which last case, the number is 5194; and which makes the whole population 10,527, in place of 7930. This appears credible from the gradual increase of baptisms since the year 1750, when according to Dr Webster's report, the population amounted to 9730. In that year, the number of baptisms was only 165; in 1790, it was 254.



# ERRATA

- Page 25, line 12, for corn; read corn and roots  
— 172 — 6, for a kind independent, read a kind of  
dependent  
— 173 — 3, for and independent, read and  
— 222 — 19, for and independent, read and



## ERRATA.

Page 29, line 15, *for* corn, *read* corn and roots.

—— 175, — 6, *for* a kind independent, *read* a kind of independent.

—— 223, — 3, *for* antiquarian, *read* antiquary.

—— 392, — 19, *for* turnipike, *read* turnpike.



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# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF

## SCOTLAND.

### PART IX.

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#### NUMBER I.

#### PARISH OF RUTHERGLEN.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF GLASGOW.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID URE, A. M.*

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#### *Extent, Surface, &c.*

THE parish of Rutherglen extends, on the south bank of the river Clyde, about 3 miles in length, and about  $1\frac{1}{3}$  in breadth. It contains some of the most fertile and beautiful plains, that are to be met with in the strath of Clyde. These plains comprehend the estates of Shawfield, Farme, Hamilton-farm and Rosebank. They are partly secured against inundations from the river, by artificial banks, extending in length no less than 3700 yards:



Their tops are 18 inches higher than the height of the flood in 1782, the greatest ever known in Clyde. It rose about  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet above low water. The rise of the tide in the river terminates at Rutherglen.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The whole parish is arable, and is mostly inclosed, chiefly with thorn hedges, in single rows. The soil, being in some places a fine loam, and in others a rich mould, produces, by the concurring assistance of a climate generally mild and warm, fertile crops of oats, wheat, barley, peas, beans, potatoes and grasses. For this and some other reasons, improvements in agriculture are, in this place, making considerable progress. There are 3 kinds of ploughs used in the parish; the Scotch, the chain, and the Rutherglen plough. The last was, for the first time, made here about 50 years ago; and consequently, according to Lord Kames's account, must have been among the first improved ploughs in Scotland. The plan after which it was constructed, was proposed by a Lady Stewart, grandmother to the present Earl of Buchan: She came from Goodtrees to the Farme, where she lived several years, and was uncommonly active in promoting agricultural improvements. It is nearly as light as the chain-plough, and answers well in a free soil; it has long ago found its way into all the parishes in the neighbourhood. The most part of the land is in tillage, for which reason there are few cattle in the parish. The number of cows is no more than 207; about 100 of that number belong to the inhabitants of the borough, and are mostly pastured on a small common, adjoining to the town. Of horses there are 110; but the greatest part of them belong to the coal-work and to carters. The valued rent of the parish, which belongs to 139 heritors, of whom



41 are non-residents, is L. 2100 Scots: The real rent may, at an average, be rated at L. 2 Sterling the acre.

*Borough.*—The capital of the parish, and from which it derives its name, is the ancient borough of Rutherglen; situated  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the S. E. of Glasgow. This town, which is said to have been at first built by Reuther, one of the Kings of Scotland, was erected into a royal borough by King David I. about the year 1126. Its privileges and immunities, as appears from charters yet extant, were very great. These, however, were gradually diminished, as Glasgow and the neighbouring towns rose into consequence. It is, since the Union, inrolled with Glasgow, Renfrew and Dunbarton; and in conjunction with them, sends a member to the British Parliament. No borough in Britain enjoys a more free and unembarrassed election of magistrates and council.

*Fairs.*—The market-day is not now frequented; but 6 fairs are annually held in the town, and are famous for the best draught-horses in Europe. It is said, that more than a century ago, one of the ancestors of the present Duke of Hamilton, brought with him to Scotland 6 coach-horses, originally from Flanders, and sent them to Strathaven, the castle of which was at that time habitable: The horses were all stallions, of a black colour, and remarkably handsome. The farmers in the neighbourhood readily embracing the favourable opportunity, made this foreign breed cross with the common Scotch kind; and thereby procured a breed superior to either. From this, a strong and hardy race of horses was soon spread over the country; but in many places, owing to neglect, was left to degenerate. By want of proper attention, we often let slip the  
most



most favourable opportunities of improvement, and suffer unmanly indolence to deprive us of many blessings we might otherwise enjoy. A high degree of credit, however, is due to the farmers in the upper part of the county, for their unremitting endeavours to improve this excellent breed. They pay strict attention to every circumstance respecting the colour; the softness and hardness of the hair; length of the body, breast and shoulders of their breeders. No inducement whatever, can lead them to encourage the breed of a horse, that is not possessed of the best qualities. Providence commonly favours the attentive and the diligent. Their laudable attempts have proved to be successful, and Britain is now reaping the merited fruits of their well directed care. Every farm almost, through the extent of several parishes, supports 6, or at least 4 mares; the half of which are allowed annually to foal. The colts are mostly sold at the fairs of Lanark and Carnwath, and bring to the owners from L. 5 to L. 20 each. They are generally purchased by farmers from the counties of Renfrew and Ayr, where they are trained for the draught, till they are about 5 years old; they are then sold at the fairs of Rutherglen from L. 25 to L. 40 each; from thence they are taken to the Lothians, England, &c. where they excel in the plough, the cart and the wagon.

*Population.*—The parish contains 286 dwelling-houses, inhabited by 444 families, containing 1860 persons; of whom 907 are males, 953 females, and 297 children under 6 years of age. The number of servants is 69, of whom 21 only are males. The increase, since the year 1755, if the return (988) made to Dr Webster was accurate, is 872. The following is a list of the number of baptisms,



baptisms, in the following periods, as they stand in the session records :

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Births.</i> | <i>Years.</i> | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Fem.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1699          | 11             | 1781          | 29            | 38          | 67            |
| 1700          | 10             | 1782          | 30            | 37          | 67            |
| 1701          | 11             | 1783          | 20            | 24          | 44            |
| 1702          | 18             | 1784          | 33            | 24          | 57            |
| 1703          | 21             | 1785          | 36            | 34          | 70            |
| 1704          | 16             | 1786          | 27            | 34          | 61            |
| 1705          | 18             | 1787          | 42            | 35          | 77            |
| 1706          | 27             | 1788          | 35            | 37          | 72            |
| 1707          | 25             | 1789          | 33            | 37          | 70            |
| 1708          | 26             | 1790          | 52            | 32          | 84            |
| 1709          | 27             | 1791          | 40            | 31          | 71            |

The increased population must be owing to the rapid progress of manufactures in this part of the country.

*Wages.*—Owing to this also, servants are scarce, and their wages high. A man-servant receives, besides bed, board and washing, L. 5 the half year; and a woman-servant from 40 s. to 50 s. A labourer, when hired by the year, receives 1 s. every day; when not hired by the year, he has from 15 d. to 18 d. a-day. Artificers, as masons and wrights, get 2 s. for their day's wages. But the practice of undertaking by the piece, almost universally prevails.

*Character of the Inhabitants.*—The present inhabitants are active and industrious, and under their good management, the peace of society is preserved. They are considerable adepts in borough politics. This, however, does not, in general, obstruct an industrious application to their several employments. But their tranquillity meets, at times, with short interruptions: A competition for their influence



influence, in a vote for a member of Parliament, sometimes convulses the community; enervates the sinews of industry; and brings ruin on some few individuals. On these occasions, one would be ready to think, that liberty was turned into licentiousness, and that the privileges of royal boroughs were curses, instead of blessings, to the persons possessed of them. But where is the constitution that is free from defects? or where the people that may not in some instances go wrong? It may, however, be observed, that the inhabitants are so far from being bad members of society, that none of them have, in the memory of man, committed any crime, for which they were liable to public punishment. They are strongly attached to the Established Church; there being not above 8 or 10 families belonging to sectaries.

*Trades, Manufactures, &c.*—How the inhabitants are employed, will appear from the following list of mechanics and labourers within the parish: The number of individuals employed in each occupation is annexed:

|                |   |    |              |             |   |     |
|----------------|---|----|--------------|-------------|---|-----|
| Bakers,        | — | 2  | Hofiers,     | —           | — | 8   |
| Barbers,       | — | —  | 1            | Labourers,  | — | 55  |
| Brewers,       | — | 2  | Millers,     | —           | — | 2   |
| Carters,       | — | —  | 18           | Shoemakers, | — | 15  |
| Coal-hewers,   | — | 60 | Smiths,      | —           | — | 37  |
| Coopers,       | — | —  | 3            | Surgeons,   | — | 1   |
| Farmers,       | — | 26 | Tailors,     | —           | — | 11  |
| Flax-dressers, | — | 1  | Watchmakers, | —           | — | 1   |
| Fleishers,     | — | 3  | Weavers,     | —           | — | 254 |
| Gardeners,     | — | 4  | Wrights, and | —           | — |     |
| Hatmakers,     | — | 10 | Masons,      | —           | — | 34  |
|                |   |    |              |             |   | Of  |



Of the weavers, 10 only continue at customary work ; the rest are employed in the muslin branch. Most of the masons profess the wright business. About three fourths of the smiths are nailers, and work to employers in Glasgow. Mr Robert Bryce hath distinguished himself for making edge-tools, especially augers and screws, both black and polished. He sells the black from 3 s. 6 d. to L. 1, 5 s. the dozen, wholesale ; and the polished, from 13 s. to L. 2 : 9 : 6 the dozen. His carpenters and coopers axes and adzes, are sold from 5 d. to 8 d. the lb. All his tools, on account of their excellent workmanship, and extremely good temper, are preferred, in Glasgow and Greenock, to any from England. His demands are always greater than he can execute. For grinding his tools, he prefers the stones from Hamilton-hill, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, to Newcastle grindstones. The former are composed of a smaller grit than the latter, but take down remarkably fast ; they wear equally round, because no part of them is harder than another ; and they are not intermixed with nodules and streaks of the martial-pyrites, which are extremely hurtful to edge-tools, and frequently render grindstones totally useless.—Mr Bryce hath also acquired a peculiar skill in the dextrous management of *bees*. He can, without killing the queen-bee, unite different swarms, or parts of swarms, and make them keep together in harmony : His apiary is sometimes stocked with 42 hives.—There are two printfields in the parish, known by the names of Rutherglen and Shawfield-bank printfields. The former is carried on by Mr Cummin and Company, and the latter by Mr Dalgleish ; they employ about 200 persons. All the women in the parish find abundance of suitable employment. Every 4 looms give work to at least one woman, who winds the yarn for them.

There



There are no fewer than 22 tambouring machines in the town; 4 young girls commonly work at each; and gain, by their united labour, about 2 s. the day.

*Minerals.*—The coal-works carried on at Stonelaw, by Major John Spens, are of long standing. There is no account when coals were at first wrought in this place. But from the number of old wastes, the period must be very remote. At present, about 126 persons are employed in the works. The water is raised by a steam-engine, which, about the year 1776, was erected by Gabriel Grey, Esq; of Scotstown. The coals turned out are of different qualities, but all of them are very good. They are sold on the hill at 10 d. the hutch, weighing 400 lb. but it commonly exceeds that weight; carriage to Glasgow is 4 d. so that a cart load of three hutches, weighing about 13 cwt. is laid down in the street for 3 s. 6 d. But two wheeled waggons, containing 6 hutches, are commonly used. Some of them that lately were occasionally weighed, contained no less than 33 cwt. of soft coal; which, however, is specifically heavier than hard coal. The empty waggon generally weighs about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. The whole, amounting to 41 cwt. is drawn by a single horse, which goes to Glasgow three times a day. Glasgow is distant from Stonelaw  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. Such heavy draughts, drawn by one horse, even for a greater length of road, is not unfrequent in this country. The waggon is generally 2 feet in depth;  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth; and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in length; the wheels are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in height; the horses employed are of the Lanarkshire breed. Their superior excellency, after the above mentioned exertion of their strength, to which they are daily accustomed, need not be called in question. A considerable quantity of iron stone is turned out along with the



the coal at Stonelaw. It sells at 5 s. 6 d. the ton on the hill; and is delivered at Clyde iron-work for 6 s. 6 d. There are two excellent free-stone quarries in the parish, which have been wrought for some hundred years past. The stones find ready sale in Glasgow and its neighbourhood.

*Public houses.*—Rutherglen is by no means destitute of grocery shops and public houses. Of the latter there are no fewer than 26 within the town. These, although more than sufficient for ordinary demands, are not able to accommodate strangers that frequent the fairs. To supply the deficiency, every inhabitant claims a right, established by immemorial practice, of selling ale and whisky, licence free, during the time of the fairs. This custom, which is hurtful neither to the revenues of Government, nor interest of the community, is profitable to some industrious families who inhabit capacious houses.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church is a small but very ancient structure. There is no account when it was built. The construction of the pillars and arches, and the ornaments on the capitals, seem to place its date at a more remote distance, than the time when the churches, ornamented with high and clustered pillars, sharp pointed arches, large windows, &c. were built.—The stipend, including the allowance for communion-elements, is 147 bolls, 14½ pecks of victual; of which, 55 bolls are of oats; 34 of barley; and the rest of oat meal. It is, however, mostly paid in money, according to the market price of the victual. The glebe contains 4½ acres, part of which is occupied by the manse and offices. The Magistrates and Council, the heritors residing within the borough,



and thirteen pound land thereof; the members of the kirk-session, and the tenants of Shawfield, have jointly the right of presentation.—The public school is generally well frequented. The salary is L. 10 Sterling yearly. The stated wages are 2 s. the quarter for English; and 2 s. 6 d. for writing, arithmetic and Latin. There are commonly one or two private schools in the town.—The number of poor in the parish, considering its population, is not great. There are only 26 on the poor funds: these are to the whole inhabitants nearly in proportion, as 1 is to 72. They are mostly aged and infirm women. Each receives from 2 s. to 5 s. a-month. There are besides a few indigent families who are occasionally assisted, as the kirk-session, to whose care the oversight of the poor is intrusted, sees proper. The funds for answering the above purposes, are raised from the weekly collections at the church door on sabbaths; from proclamations of marriage, and the annual interest of a small sum, accumulated chiefly by pious donations. These different sources, for there is no *poor-tax* in the parish, procured to the session, from February 1790 to February 1791, the sum of L. 52 : 13 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The disbursements, during the same period, were L. 46, 16 s. Balance added to the stock, L. 5 : 17 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ . One or two of the poor are allowed to beg within the bounds of the parish but no where else.

*Roads and Mill.*—There is no part in the country where better roads are to be found. The great turnpike road leading from Glasgow to London, by way of Kilbride, Muirkirk, Dumfries, &c. goes through the town. On this road is a toll-bar, the only one in the parish. The chief ne of communication to Glasgow is by Rutherglen bridge, which was, in 1775, thrown over Clyde. It is  
not



not burdened by any pontage, being built by a free subscription, to which the borough contributed nearly L. 1000 Sterling.—The only mill in the parish is the town's mill, constructed for grinding oats, barley and peas. To it are allotted all the borough lands, at the thirlage of the 40th part of the *grana crescentia*, seed and horse corn excepted. The miller is entitled to half a peck for bannock-meal, out of every 6 firlots, grinded at the mill; and the multerer, or millar's servant, has additional what is equal to the half of the bannock-meal for his fee.

Copies of the charters belonging to the borough; descriptions and drawings of the pillars in the church; of the spoils of sepulchral *tumuli*; of vegetable impressions found in the earth; of basaltic columns, and of several other subjects of antiquity and natural history, belonging to the parish, are given in Mr Ure's history of Rutherglen and East Kilbride, from which the above account is abstracted.

N U M-



## NUMBER II.

## PARISH OF BUCHANAN,

(COUNTY OF STIRLING, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNBARTON.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID MACGIBBON.*

*Name, Extent, &c.*

**B**UCHANAN was formerly called *Inchcailloch*, the name of an island in Lochlomond, where the church was till the year 1621, when a considerable part of the parish of Luss, at that time on this side of the loch, was annexed to the parish of Inchcailloch. Some years after the annexation, the walls of the church in Inchcailloch failing, and the people likewise not finding it convenient every sabbath, especially in stormy weather, to be crossing over to the island, worship was performed in a church near the house of Buchanan, which was originally a Chapel of Ease belonging to the parish of Luss. From this chapel, which was called the church or chapel of Buchanan, the whole united



united parish came by degrees to be called the parish of Buchanan. Inchcailloch signifies "the island of the Old Women;" so called, because in former times there was a nunnery there. The parish of Buchanan has been reckoned 18 computed miles long, and 6 broad. The cultivated part of the south end lies east and west between the moor of Buchanan and the river Endric. A long tract lies along the north side of Lochlomond to the upper end of the parish, near which there are two glens crossing the parish from east to west, Glendow and Glenarclet, both of which are inhabited.

*Rivers.*—The Forth has its source in the upper end of this parish. From several springs, and from rains in these high grounds frequently falling, there is collected a small burn or rivulet, which runs down Glenguai into Glendow, and by the addition of several large burns in that glen it is considerably increased: At the lower end of the glen it is called the water of Dow, and below that the water of Duchray, (as it passes by the place of Duchray), and not till it passes by the church of Aberfoil is it called the Forth. This river takes its course through Monteith by Stirling. The river Endric, which is the boundary of this parish in the south, has its source in the west end of Dundaff, or Fintry hills, and runs through the parishes of Fintry, Killcairn, and Drumen, till it reaches the parish of Buchanan, where it flows in beautiful curves through the fertile haughs (or flats) of Buchanan and Kilmaronock, and falls at last into Lochlomond. This river in the winter season, when the loch is full, covers a great part of the lower grounds on both sides of the parishes of Buchanan and Kilmaronock, and when the water lies dead and goes off gradually it enriches the ground; but the floods have often proved hurtful in



in the spring after the seed was sown, and oftener in harvest, both before the corns were cut down and afterward, carrying some away and greatly damaging the rest. In harvest 1782, in a flood, the haughs of Endric, in this parish, were covered with water, and immediately after, there came snow and intense frost, so that in some places people walked on the ice above the standing corn.

*Caves.*—In Craigrostan there are several caves in which lawless people used to skulk and hide themselves; those are known by the names of the most remarkable persons who used to frequent them. There is one commonly known by the name of King Robert's cave. What gave it that name was, that King Robert Bruce, after his defeat at Dalrec, in the west end of Strathfillan, passed that day, with very few with him, down the strath, crossed the water of Falloch, and came down the north side of Lochlomond to Craigrostan. Night coming on, when he arrived at this cave, he slept there; next day he came to the laird of Buchanan, who conducted him to the Earl of Lenox, by whom he was preserved for some time, till he got to a place of safety. The report is, that the night in which King Robert slept in the cave, he was surrounded with goats that used to lie there in the night, and that when he arose in the morning, and found himself so comfortable, he was so well pleased with the goats as his bed-fellows, that, when he came to be king, he made a law that all goats should be grass-mail (or grass-rent) free.

*Hills.*—The Grampian hills run through this parish from S. W. to N. E. and divide the lower from the higher grounds. There is one pretty high hill in the midst of these called the Conic hill: But the highest hill, in this part



part of the country, is in the upper end of the parish, called Benlomond, which is about 1080 yards above sea level. The ascent to the top of this hill directly west is steep, but from the south it is more gradual, till near the top, and then it is somewhat steeper. From the top of this hill there is, in a clear day, a very extensive view to the east as far as Edinburgh, to the south as far as Ayr, with the frith of Clyde, and the islands in it, Arran, Bute, &c. as also to the west sea and the islands of Ilay, Jura, &c.

*Lochs or Lakes.*—Though Lochlomond cannot be said to be in any one parish, yet as the parish of Buchanan extends 14 or 15 miles up the side of the loch, and several of the inhabited islands make a part of it, the greatest share of the loch may be said to fall to the parish of Buchanan. This beautiful lake, lying from S. to N. has always been reckoned 24 computed or 36 measured miles in length. The breadth towards the south end is from 8 to 10 miles; towards the north end it is not near so broad. The north end is considerably deeper than towards the south end; the depth at the foot of Benlomond is about 120 fathoms; in the south end it is about 20, and in many places not above 14. All above Rowerdennan the loch never freezes, however intense the frost be; but what is south of Rowerdennen freezes, so that men, and even horses with their loads, have travelled upon the ice, when covered with snow. As there are several rivers which pour a great quantity of water into the loch, and as there is but one way by which it empties itself into the sea, the loch, in rainy seasons, rises to a considerable height, so that from its lowest ebb it has been known to rise upwards of 5 feet. In this loch they reckon about 30 islands, but there are only 13 or 14 that can be said to be of any value, the rest being very small,  
and



and some of them but the points of bare rocks. The most valuable islands are divided between the families of Montrose and Lufs; 4 of them, belonging to the Duke of Montrose, are in the parish of Buchanan; 3 of these, namely, Inchailloch, already mentioned, Inchfael, which signifies "the Long Island," and Incheruin, "the Round Island," have a tenant in each of them with arable and pasture ground; but by far the largest and the best of all the islands, and which likewise belongs to the family of Montrose, is Inchmurin; in this island the Duke of Montrose keeps his deer, and a forester to take care of them. This island, it is said, belongs to no parish, but the people in it get church privileges, when they apply for them, at Buchanan. In the south end of this island, the ancient family of Lennox had a castle, but it is now in ruins. There are also three small lakes or lochs within the parish, namely, Dulochan, Locharclet and Lochamnancairn. In Dulochan there are some pike, in Locharclet there are pike and large trout, in Lochlomond there are salmon-trout, eel, perch, flounder, pike, and a fish peculiar to itself, called pollac. This fish is of the size of a large herring, and at times is caught in great quantities on this side of the loch with draught nets; they are best in the months of July and August. Salmon was more plentiful last year on this side of the loch than for many years past, owing to the stakes and nets upon the mouth of the Leven to prevent the fish from coming up, being pulled out; and yet salmon sold last year dearer than before, owing to the carriers attending more regularly than formerly, and carrying them off to Glasgow, &c. Salmon, which used to be sold at 2 d. and 3 d. the pound, sells now at 5 d. and 6 d.

*Woods.*



*Woods.*—Near the house of Buchanan there is an old oak wood ; great additions have been made to which within these 40 years past. The present Duke of Montrose is planting a great deal of different kinds of trees in the bottom of Buchanan, which in process of time, if properly taken care of, must turn out greatly to the advantage of the family, as well as to the beauty of the place. In the island of Inchcailloch there is a large oak wood. From the Grampian hills to the north end of the parish, along the side of the loch, is one continued wood, consisting of some ashes, alders, hazels, but mostly oaks. Woods are of late become very valuable on the sides of Lochlomond, as the timber and bark are easily transported by water to Glasgow, Port-Glasgow and Greenock, and sometimes are carried to Ireland and the west of England.

*Climate and Diseases.*—This country in general is rather wet, not however unhealthy. Fevers are rare, and generally brought from other places, especially from the towns, and from the public works that are going on at no great distance from hence, as bleaching, printing cloth, and spinning cotton ; the children or connections of people in this parish turning sickly in those places, are brought home, and sometimes the neighbours are infected by them. In that way also the small-pox was brought into this parish in winter last. The disease spreading fast, about 30 of the young people in the neighbourhood where it was, took it ; 10 of whom died. All the parents whose children had not taken it, (two or three excepted), as if it were with one consent, inoculated their children at one and the same time ; so that there are just now under inoculation in this parish 128. Several of whom I have seen ; many of them appeared to be pretty easy ; others had a good



deal of the pox, but are now in a fair way of recovery. Two only died.—What we reckon old people in this parish live till they are between 70 and 80 years; some reach 85 or 86; only 5 that I can remember, since I came to this parish, reached 90, 2 of whom died going 98. There is one living at present who is going 99; he is remarkably healthy, rises every day by 7 or 8 in the morning, and if it is a good day, takes a short walk before breakfast; he has no complaint of his sight, hearing or memory, and his hand is as steady as when he was a young man; he was in arms in the year 1715 with his countrymen the Highlanders, and is the only man alive in this part of the country who was out at that time.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The soil is of different kinds. The haughs of Endric are deep, and very fertile for grass or corn. The rising grounds towards the moor of Buchanan, are partly gravel, partly moss, and partly till, with rocks and stones, both above and below ground, in the way of the plough. Upon the side of Lochlomond above the pass, the ground is drier than below, but rocky and stony. The crops are oats and barley. Some few peas are sown, which do very well where the ground is limed, but they are in danger of suffering in harvest in this rainy country. Some few have tried turnip; they would grow very well, but they require more attention in the season that the people of this country are providing turf or peats, than they can well bestow upon them. They all plant plenty of potatoes, and the common people feed at least one half of the year upon them. Oats, if the season answers, are sown in the beginning of April, barley through the month of May, and sometimes in June. There is little flax raised, and none but what is for private use. A greater quantity  
of



of grain than was necessary for the maintenance of the inhabitants, was raised; but of late years a great part of the richer grounds being put under grass, has considerably diminished the produce in general. The generality of the tenants keep near a third more of cattle than they have pasture for; which, though they will not believe it, turns out more to their loss than their profit. There are 5 entered stills in the parish, which do more than consume all the barley that grows in it. The common Scots ploughs are generally used; but instead of being made by the farmers themselves as formerly, they are now, for the most part, made by such wrights as are most remarkable in the country for making them, so that they are not now so clumsy and heavy as usual. But by far the greater part of this parish consists of hill or moor ground, and is covered with rocks, moss and heath. For 6 miles up the side of the loch, each farm has a share of the moor which is contiguous to itself; but several miles of the north end of the parish have of late years been all put under sheep-pasture. There are only 27 ploughs going in the parish this year.

Till of late there was rather a want of industry in this parish, owing to what the farmers alleged, the shortness of their tacks, which gave them no encouragement to improve, and the difficulty of getting manure: But a lime quarry being some years ago found out in the moor above the pass, near a moss where they get peats for burning the lime, the farmers in the neighbourhood make lime there every year, which they bring to their grounds. This has proved of considerable advantage to their farms. The farms below the pass the Duke has inclosed and subdivided, partly by ditch and hedge, and partly by stone fences: By building the stone fences, the farmers who were employed in providing stones, had an opportunity of clearing their grounds of a  
great



great many stones, which they stood very much in need of. And some of them since in their wet grounds have been casting drains and filling them with stones, by which their grounds receive a double advantage. The multures for some time past have been converted into money, so that there is little more given now than what is necessary for working the grain.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the numbers were 1699. The inhabitants have decreased considerably since some part of my predecessor's time. In one of his lists, the number was between 1500 and 1600; according to the last list which I took of them, they were only 1111 souls, and the number is not increasing. There is no register of marriages kept; but the register in order to the proclamation of banns is regularly kept; and by the same it appears, that the number of proclamations from the beginning of the year 1760 to the beginning of 1790, is 241; from 1760 to 1770, is 82; from 1770 to 1780, is 83; and from 1780 to 1790, is 76: The yearly average upon the whole, is 8. The numbers of births from 1760 to 1790, is 409; from 1760 to 1770, is 147; from 1770 to 1780, is 143; from 1780 to 1790, is 119. The yearly average is about 13.

There are no manufactures in this parish. There are in it 6 weavers, 3 shoemakers, 2 tailors, 1 smith, 2 boat-carpenters, 2 millers, no wrights nor masons, except such as work constantly to the Duke of Montrose. All the servants in this parish are domestic or household, except such as work to the Duke, who have each of them who go under the denomination of his workmen, a house and garden, a cow's grazing-park, for their accommodation, with 4 acres of ground. The wages of labouring servants are daily increasing,



increasing, owing greatly to the public works going on in the neighbourhood, the enlarging of farms, and the turning off of cottagers. Men servants get from L. 7 to L. 9 in the year, and some of them more. Women servants get L. 4, and some of them more. A man to work a day's work, or a *darger*, as they are called, is not easily had; and when got, he takes 10 d. a-day with his victuals. Tailors get 8d. and victuals.—Some years ago there were several Roman Catholics, and a few of the Episcopal Communion; but there are none of these denominations now, so far as I know, at least as common residents.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The living consists of 24 bolls oat-meal, together with L. 62 : 8 : 2, with manse and glebe. The Duke of Montrose is patron. The minister, it is said, is titular. There are 6 heritors, 5 of whom have a single farm each; the rest of the parish belongs to the Duke, who is also superior of the other five.—There are 2 schools, which for several years past have been regularly taught; the parochial school, and a school appointed by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge. The parochial schoolmaster has a salary of L. 8 : 6 : 8, with a house; for every marriage he has 13 d.; for every baptism, 4 d.; for teaching to read English, 1 s. 6 d. the quarter, and for writing and arithmetic, 2 s. The charity school is kept at Salloch, about 6 miles above the church, for 3 years; and then at Inverfraid, about 7 miles farther up the country, for other 3 years, alternately. The charity schoolmaster has a salary of L. 10 as schoolmaster and catechist; he has also quarter wages from such as are able to pay, which I understand turn out to about L. 4; but he is obliged to teach the poor *gratis*.—The number of poor upon the list is about 40, sometimes 1 or 2 more. I say upon  
the



the list, because we only mark down the principal head of the family who receive charity, and are supplied by the country and the parish, though in some families there may be the husband and the wife, and in others some small children beside the husband and wife, or a widow with a small family in straitened circumstances; so that if every individual were to be put in the list, the number would be pretty considerable. There is no provision made in this parish for the poor; they are obliged to beg from house to house through the year, and get their proportion of what collections are gathered on the Sabbath days, to buy cloaths and other necessaries; and when any of them come to be in sickness, or infirm and unable to go about, they have to depend upon the charity of their nearest neighbours, and what can be given them extraordinary of the poor's money. Several years ago the county of Stirling attempted to confine their poor within their respective parishes; and after several meetings about it, all the parishes, as far as I know, except Drumen and Buchanan, agreed to the plan; by which means the poor of the parishes who agreed to it were better supplied, and the people freed of a good deal of trouble in serving them at the door; and besides, were not liable to get their goods stolen, as formerly, by vagrants who went about begging. The poor are every day becoming a heavier burden upon the inhabitants of this parish, occasioned by the best growing farms in the lower end of the parish being put under grass, and the small farms in the head of the parish, many of them being united together and put under sheep, and let out to people in other parishes who give nothing for the support of the poor, but leave them a burden upon the residents. There is about L. 280 belonging to the poor of the parish, most of which has been given in different donations by the family of Montrose.

*Manners*



*Manners and Morals.*—The people are generally sober. There are no villages in the parish, nor even what deserves the name of a clachan at the church. There are only 3 licensed public houses : It is an advantage to the morals of the people that there are so few. The people are hospitable, and very charitably disposed towards the poor. They live in peace and harmony among themselves, and are very ready to oblige and assist one another when need requires. I cannot now recollect one law process between the inhabitants before the sheriff or commissary, since I came to the parish ; any difference among them used to be made up at the barony court, and there have been very few differences even before the barony court for many years past. There has no murder been committed time immemorial ; no persons have been committed to prison, or banished for any crime, except one family who came to reside here, finding it inconvenient to live any where else, and one individual who came from the south, when pursued in his own country, took shelter here for a few days, and afterwards suffered at Edinburgh.

*Advantages.*—One great convenience which this parish has, is, that almost every farm has moss in the moors belonging to itself or contiguous to it ; so that in moderately dry summers the people may have plenty of good peats. But after all, considering the time that is spent in cutting the peats, setting and keeping them to the drought, and carrying them home, which is a great part of the summer's work, besides the danger of losing them all, or most of them in rainy seasons, I leave it to my neighbours to judge whether it would not be better to cast fewer peats, and serve themselves partly in coals, especially since they have now got a turnpike road to the coals. One great advantage



tage which the lower end of this parish has received of late years, is a new line of road from Drumen to Rowerdennan, which (the ferry intervening) joins the great road from Dunbarton to Inverary on the south side of Lochlomond. There is always a ferry-boat kept by the family of Montrose at Rowerdennan, and another by the family of Arrochar on the opposite side. The ferrying place on this side has, of late years, been made pretty convenient for passengers; a quay has been built both for the safety of the boats, and for the conveniency of horses getting into and out of the boats; as also a convenient public house. The line of road from Drumen to Rowerdennan was begun and formed by the statute work; bridges were built on the burns, partly by the vacant stipend, partly by the bridge-money got from the county, and partly by the Duke's money. This road while carried on by the statute work, went on very slowly; though begun above 30 years ago, it could not be said to be finished till last year; but now that it is finished, it must greatly attract the attention of travellers, being for several miles up the side of the loch, highly beautiful and picturesque; interspersed with woods and beautiful fields of grass and arable grounds; commanding at the same time an extensive and delightful prospect of Lochlomond, and of the principal islands in it, as also of the many fine seats around the loch.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the lower end of the parish is the house of Buchanan, the present seat of the family of Montrose. This place for near 700 years belonged to Buchanan of that ilk, and was the seat of that ancient family, but has been now for some time in the possession of the family of Montrose.—At Inversnaid in the upper end of the parish, there was, about 80 years ago, a fort built



built near mid-way between Lochlomond and Lochcatrine ; the design of which was to guard the pass between the two lochs, and prevent the cattle and goods of the people in the lower parts of the country being stolen and carried away northward, as also to be a check upon the country around it ; the people thereabout being as ready as any others to take away their neighbour's goods. This fort was burnt in 1745, but was afterward repaired. There used to be a company of men stationed there some time ago ; but, for several years past, it has been supplied with a few men from the castle of Dunbarton.

The people on the south side of the Grampian Hills, speak nothing but English ; on the north side, such as have been born and brought up there, speak the English and Gaelic. Of late years, several tenants from the south side, have removed to farms on the north side ; these speak English only. All the names of places within the parish are Gaelic : as, *Coldrach*, ' The Back of the Oaks ;' *Blarvokie*, or ' Plain of the He-Goat ;' *Stronmacnair*, ' The Point of the Hill, belonging to the Son of the Heir ;' *Benlomond*, ' The bare green Hill.'



## NUMBER III.

## PARISH OF GOLSPY,

(COUNTY OF SUTHERLAND, SYNOD OF SUTHERLAND AND  
CAITHNESS, PRESBYTERY OF DORNOCH.)

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM KEITH.*

*Name, Situation, Surface, Soil, &c.*

CULMALIE was the ancient name of this parish. Golspy is probably derived from *goul spaut*;—*goul* signifying, ‘a figure resembling a branch of a tree,’ and *spaut* ‘a speat.’ Probably the burn of Golspy ran in that form, and had often a speat or flood; which is still the case, altho’ the form is much changed by reason of frequent inundations. The place perhaps got its name from the figure of the burn, and the circumstance of its speats.—This parish extends from Strathleven, the N. E. end, to the Little Ferry, S. W. along the sea, nearly in a straight line; and measures about 8 miles. From the boat of the Little Ferry, it runs along that arm of the sea from S. E. to N. W. for 3 miles, and thus forms nearly a right angle at the west end.

By



By the most direct road from one end to another, it is 10 measured miles in length, and from sea to hill in the broadest part, about a mile and an half, and about a mile in the narrowest part, exclusive of a good deal of barren hilly ground. There is a bank which runs along the burn of Golspy due west from the sea for 5 miles, where there are several inhabitants. It is flat for 10 miles in length from the coast, and from a mile to a mile and a half in breadth. The soil is general light, but of a good quality and fertile. In some parts it is deep, and mixed with clay, and very fertile. The S. W. end is sandy; the N. E. end stony. No part is high, or having high rocks. The hills on the side facing the sea are covered with short black heath, and somewhat rocky. On the opposite side the heath is long, with a mixture of grass, and the ground for most part mossy. The air is dry and healthy. There are haddocks, whittings, cod, small rock red cod, cuddies, skate, fine turbot and flounders, taken with lines. On the Little Ferry branch, mussels, cockles, are gathered in plenty; flounders, trouts of various kinds, and a few salmon are taken with nets. All those are in season as in other places: The country around purchase all. Seals and porpoises are on the coast; sometimes small whales are seen near it; and there are instances of some being driven on shore. About 5 or 6 years ago, haddocks were a penny the score; now they are a penny each. There is a good deal both of tangle and bell-weed on the coast, and used for manuring the lands to great advantage. About 30 ton of kelp is made every third year. The tides run from east to west, and from west to east. There is a pretty strong current in the Little Ferry, but not remarkable.

*Population.*



*Population.*—About 100 years ago, the population is supposed not to have been above one half of what it is at present. In 1750 the number of inhabitants was 1302; at present they are 1700.

|                              |      |                           |     |
|------------------------------|------|---------------------------|-----|
| Males, - - -                 | 800  | Farmers, (ten have above  |     |
| Females, - - -               | 900  | 10 acres), and their fa-  |     |
| Inhabitants in village       |      | milies, - - -             | 73  |
| of Golspy, - - -             | 300  | Wrights, - - -            | 5   |
| In the country, - - -        | 1400 | Masons, - - -             | 2   |
| Ann. aver. of births, - - -  | 65   | Weavers, - - -            | 10  |
| — of deaths, - - -           | 47   | Tailors, - - -            | 12  |
| — of marriages, - - -        | 20   | Tinker, - - -             | 1   |
| Under 10 years of age, - - - | 500  | Apprentices, - - -        | 10  |
| Between 10 and 20, - - -     | 450  | Fishermen, - - -          | 20  |
| Between 20 and 50, - - -     | 550  | Ferry-men, - - -          | 4   |
| Between 50 and 70, - - -     | 175  | Household servants, - - - | 12  |
| Between 70 and 100, - - -    | 25   | Labouring servants, - - - | 252 |
| Heritors, (1 resides con-    |      | Family of Nobility, - - - | 1   |
| stantly), - - -              | 2    | Families of Gentry, - - - | 4   |
| Physician, - - -             | 1    |                           |     |

The proportion between the annual births and the whole population is as 1 to 26; between marriages and it, as 1 to 85; between annual deaths and it, as 1 to 36. Each marriage, at an average, produces 7 children. The population would still increase were manufactures established. In Dr Webster's report the number is 1790; but this seems to be exaggerated. Several go in spring to the South of Scotland, where they find better encouragement for 1 hour, and most of them return in October or November following. None have been banished since the year 1744, when one suffered that punishment.—There are 363 houses, 5 in each house at an average; but



but there are 42 of those houses with only 1 inhabitant in each, and several houses with but 2 inhabitants in each.

*Produce, &c.*—There is kail, potatoes, turnip, and every kind of garden roots; firs of different kinds, ash, elm, alder, plane-tree, narrow-leaved service, birch, hazle, also furze and broom. On the farm of Dunrobin, are at this time black cattle, of 3 and 4 years old, which would sell at L. 10 a-head. They are not large, but remarkable well shaped, well haired, and hardy. The number of black cattle may be 1100; of sheep 1000; of horses 350. About 1000 arable acres, and a great many waste. About 400 acres, or nearly so, of grass or pasture lands. 850 acres may be employed in raising corn; in raising barley 300 acres; oats 180; pease 140; turnip 70; potatoes 160; and 150 acres are in sown grass, besides 100 acres of pasture ground. The parish supplies itself with provisions; and can sell 200 bolls of victual, and about 200 black cattle at an average. They sow pease here in the beginning of March; oats about the middle; and bear from the 20th of April to the 20th of May: They reap bear in August and beginning of September, and oats and pease almost all in September. There are 500 or 600 acres, besides hill ground common, all of little value, fit only for sheep pasture. About 5 miles square are planted with trees. The land rent of the parish may be L. 700. The best arable land is 1 boll; best pasture 5s. 6d. the acre; inferior 3 firlots arable; and 3s. 6d. pasture the acre. The farm of Dunrobin is 400 acres; Uppat 150; Craigtown 110; Kirktown, Abermoss, and Morvick, about 50 acres each. Two farms, of 25 acres each, and 1, including arable and pasture grounds,



grounds, 55. No other farms in the parish exceed 12 acres, and few are so extensive. Most of the largest farms are inclosed; the smaller ones are not. The people, in general, are convinced of the advantage of inclosures. In 1782 and 1783, they paid their rents nearly in victual, and had seed for their land. Tradesmen and others, whom the farmers could not supply, got foreign victual that came to the country in spring and summer 1783; and all were well supplied.

*Stipend and Poor.*—The stipend, including the glebe, is about L. 76. The patronage is vested in the Countess of Sutherland and Earl Gower. There are 100 on the poor's list; and many objects of charity in the parish besides. The annual collections are L. 6 at an average; besides, there are L. 53 Sterling of a fund, being a present from the family of Sutherland, to the poor, which produces annually L. 2, 13s. Fines, for delinquencies, may amount, at an average, to L. 3 : 6 : 8; out of all which, the session-clerk, catechist, and kirk-officer get about L. 4 Sterling.

*Price of Provisions and Labour.*—Beef and mutton  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound in their season, and 3 d. at least in spring; geese 1s. 6 d.; ducks 6 d.; chickens 4 d.; pork  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d.; butter 12s. 2d. pounds English; cheese 4 d. and of better quality 5 d. and 6 d.; barley 12s. 6 d.; oats 9s. 6 d. All these kinds of provisions could be bought 20 years ago at half the present prices. Some labourers get 8 d. and 9 d.; but most 6 d. in summer, and 5 d. in winter: Carpenters and masons 1s. 6 d.; tailors 1s. A common labourer, when married, gets 4 bolls bear-meal, at 10 stone weight, and 2 bolls oat-meal at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  stone weight, land for potatoes and kail-garden, and about L. 2, 10s. in money, which, with some small



small earnings of his wife in spinning, or farm work, or partly both, maintain their family pretty well. The wages of a male servant, including perquisites, are equal to L. 3 Sterling, and of female servants about L. 1, 10s. a-year.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There was a skirmish on the plain between Golspy and the Little Ferry, in the year 1746, between a party of the rebels and the militia of the country, where the rebels were worsted, and several men of rank taken prisoners.—No remarkable wreck has happened.—The mountain of Binbhragie may be about 3 quarters of a mile high. There is plenty of moorstone, freestone, grey slate, all used in building houses and fences.—Some are quarried, and a great many are got on the surface.—In 1775 the burn of Golspy overflowed the glebe-lands, and others adjacent; and in November 1781, it overflowed the same twice in the course of 10 days.—The number of ploughs in the parish is 90, and all of the common kind, except those at Dunrobin; the carts are 24. There is 1 two-wheeled carriage.—There is 1 village along the shore of Golspy.—There are the remains of an old castle, supposed to be Pictish, 3-4ths of a mile due west from the house of Dunrobin; some cells entire.—The size of the people is from 5 feet 5 inches, to 5 feet 9. The greatest height which any have attained is 6 feet.—The inhabitants are economical, humane, contented, and not fond of a seafaring life.—There are 3 boats constantly used in fishing, sometimes for freighting. None have entered the Navy, except those that were pressed, or given up as the complement due from each boat's crew. Property is not changing, except the small estate of Uppat, twice sold of late years, so as to yield about 4 *per cent.* interest.—The condition of the inhabitants would be ameliorated, by establishing manufactures



factures in the country, which is the principal thing wanted.—The Gaelic language principally is spoken here. Names of places are derived from it.—Peat and turf are used as fuel, and brought from the neighbouring hills, at 3 miles distance, at 2d. the back load of the small country horses, and 3d. in winter and spring.—The dress of the inhabitants is much improved.

NUM.



N U M B E R IV.

UNITED PARISHES OF LOGIE AND PERT,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,  
PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER PETER.*

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*Name, Situation, Soil, Air, &c.*

IT seems probable, that the parish of Logie, or Logie-Montrose, as it was formerly called, was annexed to the parish of Pert perhaps about the year 1610 or 1615. Logie, which is a very common name through Scotland, is said to be of Gaelic extraction, and to signify a 'flat or 'low situation,' which particularly corresponds to that of the Old Church of Logie, which is situated in a hollow or low ground, by the side of the Northesk river. *Pert* is of uncertain origin. The Old Church of Pert is likewise situated on the banks of the Northesk, very near the Old North Water Bridge, and about 3 miles up the river



from Logie. The United Parish is something of an oblong, or rather elliptical form, though by no means regular; its greatest length from E. to W. is more than 4 English miles, and its greatest breadth from S. to N. about 3 miles. The lower part of it lies along the banks of the river Northesk, which, by a beautiful curve, divides it towards the north and east, from the parishes of Marykirk and St Cyrus. The upper part is pretty high, generally bending with a gentle declivity to the river, though good part of it likewise has a southern exposure.—The soil, chiefly in the lower parts, is a deep clay, yielding, even in an uncultivated state, plenty of natural grass. That, in the higher grounds is partly a light loam, and partly of a black moorish cast, with a clay bottom, spontaneously producing in its natural state, or when left uncultivated, a short heath, intermixed with furze and broom.—The air is in general sharp and salubrious, though now and then rains and fogs from the sea, perhaps, in some measure, contribute to render it unwholesome. The most prevalent distempers are fevers, which sometimes prove highly infectious and epidemical. This was particularly the case in 1787-8, when, in little more than the space of a twelvemonth, about 30 individuals died of a malignant fever, which generally produced a delirium about the 4th or 5th day, and cut them off in less than a week after. Perhaps an officious, though ill-judged attention, shown by the people in visiting their sick neighbours, tended to spread the contagion, which might be aggravated by the want of a due regard to cleanliness, and to the admission of fresh air. It was remarked, that though several young persons who were seized with that fever recovered, no one advanced in life, or even above the age of 30, experienced a recovery. The other diseases most common are, gravel, rheumatism, and consumptions. The small-pox also at times make considerable ravages, and, no doubt,



doubt, prove the more fatal, as the common people still show a very general aversion to inoculation. The plague raged here in 1648.

*Springs, Rivers, &c.*—There are several springs, though not of very great celebrity; one of them is a strong mineral, which is said to be serviceable in stomach disorders. There is a spring-well in the old church-yard of Logie, which was formerly much resorted to by people who had sores. There is a very copious spring in Martin's Den, that would fill a bore of 4 inches diameter, nourishing great abundance of water, with cresses in its stream. And there is in a field, near the spot where the old manse of Pert stood, a plentiful spring of excellent water, likewise feeding a great quantity of water-cresses. Both this, and the spring in Martin's Den, are supposed to be anti-scorbutic. There is no lake, nor any river, except the Northesk already mentioned, commonly called the North Water, dividing the counties of Angus and Mearns. This river furnishes a title to the noble family of Northesk, who formerly possessed a large track of land in the parish of Pert, and neighbourhood, on both sides of the river, now in the possession of the Earl of Kintore and others. Rose Hill, which gives title to the eldest son of the Earl of Northesk, is an eminence on the road side, near the gate of Inghitmaldie, (a seat belonging to Lord Halkerton, now Earl of Kintore,) and a little to the northward of the North Water Bridge; whereas the Southesk, which runs past the town of Brechin, gave title to the Earl of Southesk, who was attainted in 1715.

The North Water produces excellent trout and salmon; the latter, some years in considerable quantities. In that part of it which bounds the parish of Logie Pert are caught, some years from Candlemas to Michaelmas, (the legal term  
of



of fishing here,) upwards of 120 stone, though some seasons often not half that quantity. The salmon-fishing in this part of the river has for some time past, been much hurt by a dam-dike belonging to a proprietor of the fishing below, the height of which prevents the salmon from getting up the stream. To remedy this evil, recourse has lately been had to a process at law. The salmon here are chiefly caught with the net, though angling both for trout and salmon is likewise frequently practised. The salmon are reckoned in greatest perfection during the months of February, March, and April. They are commonly sent for sale to the Boil-house at Montrose, where, at an average, they bring about 5 s. the stone; from thence they are exported to the London market. When sold on the spot, towards the beginning of spring, they frequently fetch 6 d. a pound.

*Minerals, &c.*—There are here several freestone quarries, the rock rather soft, and at no great depth from the surface. What stones they have hitherto produced, have been used by the proprietors for their own private purposes. But what particularly deserves notice, is the limework, which for some years has been carrying on, and is still carrying on to greater and greater extent in the district of Pert. Limestone was first discovered here about the year 1780. For some time it was wrought in the usual way, but of late an attempt has been made by the principal proprietor, and with no inconsiderable success, to work it by mining, in the same manner as coal is wrought in the southern parts of Scotland; and a subterraneous drain, intended to be about 15 fathoms deep, and 400 yards in length, is now begun to be cut for clearing off the water from the quarries. The main stratum, or vein of limestone, extends from the Northesk nearly in a S. W. direction, through the whole parish



parish of Pert, and enters the parish of Strickathrow, where it is likewise wrought to some extent. There are several veins, under one another, at different depths from the surface. One principal vein is at the depth of about 6 feet, and nearly 12 feet thick. To use the style of the workmen, it is covered with a strong scourdy stone, mixed with lime, and the pavement or bed is a thick body of reddish freestone, in which are several thin seams of limestone. The vein now mining, which is supposed to be rather of superior quality to the rest, is at the depth of more than 40 feet. The several quarries are said to have produced this year, upwards of 16,000 bolls of shells; each boll of shells yielding about 3 bolls of lime of exceeding fine powder. The lime is reckoned remarkably good, and is very fit either for building or manure. It is sold by wheat measure at 1 s. 9 d. *per* boll ready money, and 1 s. 10 d. credit. There are a good many hands employed in this work, especially in spring and summer, perhaps from 20 to 30 or upwards. Good hands are allowed 1 s. 2 d. a-day, and when engaged by the quantity, at the rate of 6 d. the boll. About L. 2 being allowed for powder for 1600 or 1700 bolls. The limestone is burned with what is called Coom Coals, (the same the blacksmiths use,) brought from Inverkeithing and other parts of the frith of Forth to the port of Montrose, and from thence carried in carts to the lime-work. This coal is generally purchased on the spot, at 3 s. 6 d. the boll, the freight to Montrose, exclusive of custom dues, is about 1 s. 5 d; the cartage from Montrose to the quarries, (about 7 miles distance,) 2 s. the boll or 72 stone. In consequence of the above advantage of lime, improvements are fast advancing in this neighbourhood, and the value of land is every year rising. One proprietor is said to have let some of his farms at quadruple rent, after having fallowed, limed, drained, and inclosed the ground.

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The duty on coal, for burning lime into manure, falls very heavy, and the taking it off, would not only operate as an encouragement to the farmer, but might tend much to the improvement of the country in general.

*Animals, Birds, &c.*—The animals of the wild kind are chiefly hares, foxes, weasels, and polecats. The birds are, crows of different kinds, especially the rook, the raven, and the carion crow; partridges, blackbirds, herons, thrushes, sky and wood-larks; magpies, robins, wrens, linnets, goldfinches, bulfinches, wood-pigeons, hawks of different species. Gulls are found to flock hither before a storm from the sea, and we have prodigious flocks of sparrows, which are peculiarly destructive to early grain. There is likewise found here in gardens, about the fruit season, a bird called by some the oosal, said to be but a recent visitor in this part of the country, pretty much resembling the blackbird, only of a lighter dun colour. It devours small fruit very voraciously. We have three species of the swallow. Our migratory birds are the cuckoo and swallow, which last makes its appearance in May, and disappears about the end of October. The moor of Pert furnishes the lapwing, appearing in March, and disappearing about the end of harvest. In that moor also are plovers, wild ducks of different species, snipes, and wild geese, which, though they do not nest here, lodge in the moor, sometimes in hundreds during the night. The parish also breeds a considerable number of black cattle of a middling size.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the numbers were then 696. There can be no document found for ascertaining with precision the state of the population here at a very early period. It appears from the session



session register, that between the years 1720 and 1730, the number of births each year, at an average, was from 20 to 24, the number of marriages from 4 to 7, and the number of deaths from 12 to 16; from which it should seem, that the population then was nearly as great as at present. There are two circumstances which have tended much to diminish the population here, as well as in several places of this neighbourhood, the monopoly of farms, and the different mode of farming which has of late years been adopted. There are in this parish sundry instances of two or more farms having been joined into one, which must occasion a diminution of tenants; and as several of the farmers now make use of hired servants in place of cottagers, and plough with one man and two horses, in place of two men and four horses formerly used; this, likewise, though no doubt a more economical scheme, is less favourable to population, and tends to the decrease of numbers. Owing to these causes, the number of individuals would be reduced below what it formerly was, were it not for two other causes, proving more than an overbalance, the limeworks already mentioned, and some bleachfields, &c. in the district of Logie, which afford employment to a considerable number of hands. The amount of the population in the month of February this year (1791) was about 999 individuals, of whom 469 were males, 530 females. None reside in towns, one family excepted, who generally reside for some months during the winter season in Montrose. There is likewise a lady with her maid-servant, not included in the above amount, who reside during the summer in the old manse of Logie. There are only two places in the parish, which, with any sort of propriety, can be called villages, viz. North Water Bridge, and Mains of Craigo, the one containing only about 70 individuals, and the other about 60. The annual average of births for 7 years last past, has



has been nearly 24; of deaths between 11 and 12; of marriages more than 5. Of the 999, there were under the age of 10,

|                 |   |   |   |     |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----|
| From 10 to 20,  | - | - | - | 230 |
| From 20 to 50,  | - | - | - | 202 |
| From 50 to 70,  | - | - | - | 377 |
| From 70 to 100, | - | - | - | 163 |
|                 |   |   |   | 27  |

Of these about 6 or 7 are 80 and upwards, none of them, however, have arrived at 90.—The number of farmers having families, and who earn a livelihood by farming, is about 36. Of these about 5 or 6 pay from L. 100 to L. 200 Sterling of yearly rent; the second class from L. 20 to L. 50 or more; and the third class from L. 5 or L. 6 to L. 20. Besides these, there are several who occupy small tacks, which they hold chiefly of landed proprietors; but which, being insufficient for their subsistence, they have recourse at times to hiring for manual labour, or exercise some trade, such as weaving, &c. In this parish, besides the bleachers and millers afterwards to be mentioned, and those employed under them, there are 5 smiths, 2 coopers, 9 wrights, 4 masons, 10 weavers, 7 tailors, 4 shoemakers, 1 butcher, 1 dyer, 4 merchants or shopkeepers, 2 flax-dressers, and about 20 apprentices and journeymen in whole under these. A few hands are occasionally employed in salmon-fishing, one ferryman at the boat of Craigo, several miners employed at the limeworks, a few household servants, above 80 labouring servants, male and female, and 2 students. More than one third is supposed to have been born in other parishes or districts of Scotland. There is no nobility resident in the parish; of gentlemen heritors 2 reside, 3 are non-resident. There is one surgeon, who was in the navy.—All our people are of the Established Church, except 2 or 3 Seceders, 8 or 10 Episcopalians, and about half a dozen of persons, who call themselves Bereans; no Roman Catholics.—The annual births



are to the whole population, nearly in the proportion of 1 to 42. Supposing both parties parishioners, the proportion between the annual marriages and the whole population would be nearly as 1 to 99 ; but as it frequently happens, that some one of the parties married belongs to a different parish, this must vary the proportion accordingly, and make it considerably less. The annual deaths to the whole population, may be, on an average, as 1 to 86 or 90. The number of married men having houses is about 160 ; the number of bachelors having ditto, 14, and widowers having ditto, 10. Each marriage, at an average, produces between 4 and 5 children. None were ever known here to have died for want. The people in general being sober and industrious, such crimes as murder and robbery are unknown. One or two some years ago emigrated to America, though from no necessity, or want of good employment at home. None have been banished from the parish as far back as can be remembered. A few cottages have been suffered to fall, but others in general have been built in lieu of them. The number of inhabited houses is about 224, and the number of persons at an average to each inhabited house, is between 4 and 5.

*Manufactures, &c.*—The following are the principal : Two master bleachers residing with their families, one at the bleachfield of Logie, the other at the bleachfield of Craigo. At Logie bleachfield, belonging to a company in Montrose, who have the field in tack from the proprietor of Craigo, there is a complete apparatus for bleaching of thread, and the quantity bleached here annually is from 60,000 to 70,000 spindles, which is almost wholly disposed of at the London market. This work, which was set a-going about 30 years since, but which has of late been on the increase, affords employment each season to about 40 hands,

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men, women, and boys. Finding their own victuals, they receive of wages from 3 s. to 5 s. a-week, according to their age and expertness at the business.—Craigie bleachfield, which is likewise rented from the proprietor of Craigie by a gentleman in Montrose, is at present sublet to a bleacher. It was formerly used for bleaching of thread, but is now chiefly employed for whitening cloth. It affords work during the proper season to 6 or 7 hands, at about 8 d. a-day. Both fields lie on the banks of the Northesk, within half a mile of one another. The rent is extremely moderate, only a good deal has been laid out on proper houses, machinery, &c. At the mill of Craigie, besides the mill for grinding meal, there is a mill for cleaning yarn for the duck manufacture, and brown sheeting; it likewise contains an apparatus for beating coarse thread, and furnishes pretty constant work for 3 hands, each of whom may earn at the rate of 10 d. a day. Here also is a flax mill, employed in breaking and scutching flax, after a much improved method, at the rate of at least 1500 stones avoirdupoise yearly. This mill gives constant employment to about 8 hands, each earning from 7 s. 6 d. to 9 s. a-week. The flax wrought here is all for home consumption. Near the above is a waukmill and dyehouse. At the mill of Logie, besides a meal and barley mill, there is hard by the river side a snuff mill, held in feu from Craigie by a merchant in Montrose. Between 30 and 40 years ago, when this mill was first erected, and when importation of tobacco was allowed at the port of Montrose, there were annually manufactured here, and sold at about 1 s. the lb. for exportation, near 40,000 lb. snuff. Since the importation of tobacco at Montrose was prohibited, this manufacture has considerably declined. Tobacco for this mill is now conveyed coastwise by the Canal from Glasgow. There is now only one person employed here, and about 5000 lb. of snuff annually



ly manufactured and sold for home consumption, at the rate of 2 s. 4 d. the pound. There is likewise here a mill, with 10 beaters for beating thread. In the united parish are 3 meal mills, employing a miller, besides assistants. The whole parish of Pert is under thirlage to the mill of Pert, some paying  $\frac{1}{5}$ , and others  $\frac{1}{11}$  multure, besides knaveship, &c. The whole land of Craigo is under thirlage to the mill of Craigo at  $\frac{1}{5}$ , besides knaveship, &c. There is no thirlage at the mill of Logie. This thirlage, which is a sort of old feudal tenure, by which tenants and others are bound at a certain fixed rate, to have their corns ground at certain mills, is generally considered as a grievance, and is at some mills a prelude to very indifferent usage.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Some woodlands on the estate of Craigo are found to produce a considerable variety of moss, no fewer than 14 or 15 different species, some of which have been transmitted for the inspection of the Royal Society at London. Some of the old woods are Scots fir, others a mixture of hard wood, such as ash, elm, oak, birch, &c. The young plantations on the different estates in the parish consist partly of Scots fir, and partly of larix, spruce, plane, elm, beech, ash, birch, in short, an intermixture of all kinds, commonly raised in nurseries.—About 450 acres have been planted here within these 10 or 15 years past; and of these about 270 acres were inclosed, and nearly planted out the 2 last years.—According to the best computation, there are from 180 to 190 horses in the parish, young and old; about 740 black cattle, exclusive of calves, about 200 of which are annually brought up. There was formerly a great number of sheep in this parish; but since the inclosing of fields and sowing of artificial grass took place, the breeding of sheep has in a great measure



measure been given up ; so that there is scarcely now 100 sheep in the whole parish, and these are chiefly kept for the use of the table. The parish can afford itself a very tolerable supply of various kinds of provisions. It does not export any considerable quantity ; but finds in general a ready market for grain of different kinds at Brechin and Montrose, where it is bought partly for the use of the inhabitants, and partly by commission for exportation to other places. Both at Brechin and Montrose, but especially the latter, a good deal of bear and barley is sold for malting. Till of late years very little ground was sown in artificial grasses. It is said the first ever known in the parish was about the year 1746 or 1747, when a person in the parish of Pert having sown a ridge with clover, got a public proclamation made for people to keep off their sheep and cattle from it, which brought many to see it as a matter of curiosity. Oats are generally sown about the end of March, and begin to be reaped about the 1st of September, and sometimes later. Barley is sown about the middle of April, bear later ; and both are commonly reaped rather earlier than oats. Pease are sown and reaped much about the same time with oats. Wheat is sown here in September and October, and reaped about the same time with barley. The ripening of the different corn crops is rather retarded by the liming now so much in use. Flax is sown about the end of March, and reaped the 1st of August. Turnips are sown about the middle of June ; grass seeds according to the different crops with which they are sown out ; and hay is usually cut in July. The gross amount of the parish in Scots acres, with the different ways in which these at an average are employed, are as follow :

Gross



Gross amount, exclusive of farm-steadings, (that is, farm-houses and their offices), roads, gardens, &c. 3860 acres.

|                                        | Acres. |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Annually employed in oats, - - -       | 740    |
| _____ in barley and common bear, -     | 420    |
| _____ in pease, - - -                  | 144    |
| _____ in wheat, - - -                  | 70     |
| _____ in flax, - - -                   | 46     |
| _____ in fallow, turnips and potatoes, | 160    |
| _____ in hay for cutting, -            | 270    |
| _____ in pasture, including wastes, -  | 890    |
| _____ in moor uncultivated, -          | 350    |
| _____ in woodlands, - - -              | 770    |
|                                        | <hr/>  |
|                                        | 3860   |

The valued rent is L. 3816 : 9 : 4 Scots. The real rent, including the value of what the several proprietors hold in their own possession, surplus rents, rents of mills, bleach-fields, &c. lime works not included, may be from L. 1800 to L. 1900 Sterling. The number of ploughs is about 55 ; of carts 64. Several of the ploughs are of the old Scotch kind, others of a lighter construction. The best arable land in the parish lets at about a guinea an acre ; that of an inferior quality at about 10 s. or 15 s. The number of farms is rather diminishing, owing to junction or monopoly. Most of the parish of Pert, and a good part of Logie, is inclosed, partly with hawthorn, and partly with furze hedges on sunk fences. No doubt hedges are a great benefit in point of shelter, as well as ornament. They are only found inconvenient in a wet harvest and low situation. The hawthorn likewise harbours prodigious flocks of sparrows, which devour considerable quantities of grain. Perhaps stone fences, built pretty high, might in some respects be



be preferable, as sheep could be more commodiously kept within these; and surely it is a circumstance much to be wished, that the breed of sheep were more encouraged here than it now is. Many of the people in the parish have still an unreasonable aversion to inclosing, notwithstanding its many obvious advantages.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—It is an advantage, that the centre of the united parishes, lying at nearly an equal distance from the market towns of Montrose and Brechin, about 4 or 5 measured miles from either, there is found a ready sale for grain, poultry, butter, cheese, eggs, &c. But then there is a disadvantage resulting to those of the parish who have such articles to buy; because on account of the demand at these towns, enhanced of late by a number of monied men, who have settled in these places and neighbourhood, there is no article of provision can be purchased within the parish, but at a very dear rate, and even higher than in the above market towns. There is likewise a temporary disadvantage, which those especially of the poorer class are beginning to feel: The coal has here, for a considerable time, been the principal article of fuel, yet the common people have in a good measure likewise depended partly on furze and broom, and partly on turf and peat. The furze and broom begin to fail, as most of the wastes, from whence these were procured, are either inclosing or converting into corn ground. The article of turf becomes still scarcer, as the moors from which that was got, are now for the most part inclosed and planted, and the low country mosses which furnished peat, become every day more and more exhausted, so that in a few years a total failure of them may be apprehended; and as to peats from the hills, the distance from hence, which is 10 or 12 miles, part of it very steep and disagreeable road, renders it extremely difficult,



cult, as well as expensive, to procure them ; so that the parishioners here, in a short time, will be chiefly confined to two articles, wood and coals. Burn-wood at present is by no means plentiful ; and though there be a good many rising plantations in the parish, yet these mostly consist of hard wood ; and, at any rate, several years must elapse before they can prove serviceable in the way of fuel. On this account, there will be at least a temporary necessity of using a greater quantity of coal, which will fall very heavy on the poorer sort, by reason of the additional tax on that article, all to the north of the Red Head, a promontory near Arbroath. It is hoped the Legislature will be induced to abolish this very partial and unreasonable tax. Under this article, it may be proper to remark, that the bleachfields, lime quarries, &c. in the parish are a very considerable local advantage, as they furnish employment, especially during the spring and summer seasons, to near 80 individuals ; besides, the smaller tenants, and others who have horses, earn no inconsiderable profit, by carting coals to the lime-works from Montrose.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The value of the living, including the glebe, is one year with another about L. 80 Sterling. The patrons are the Crown, and the New College of St Andrew's *per vices*. The schoolmaster's salary, including school-fees, and other perquisites, is better than L. 20 Sterling a-year, besides a free house and garden. He has in the winter season from 40 to 50 scholars, and in summer from 30 to 40. His terms for Latin and arithmetic are 2s. 6d. the quarter ; writing 2s. ; reading English 1s. 6d. The number of poor in the parish at present receiving alms, is about 25. The annual amount for their relief, may be, one year with another, about L. 40 Sterling.

*Prices of Provisions, Labour, &c.*—All kinds of butcher meat sell nearly at 4d. the lb. except pork, which is about 3½d.



$3\frac{1}{2}$  d. ; eggs, 4 d. the dozen ; fowls, from 1 s. 8 d. to 2 s. the pair, according to the season ; chickens, 7 d. the pair ; ducks, 1 s. 4 d. ditto ; butter, at an average through the year, may be reckoned at  $8\frac{1}{2}$  d. the lb. ; whereas, about 30 or 40 years ago, beef or mutton could have been bought here at  $1\frac{1}{4}$  d. the lb. ; a pair of good chickens, at 2 d. a dozen ; eggs, at 1 d. ; butter, at 4 d. the lb. and other articles in proportion.—The wages of an ordinary labourer are about 8 d. a day in winter, and 10 d. in summer, finding his own provisions ; of a mason, about 1 s. 8 d. ; of a wright, about 1 s. 4 d. ; of a tailor, 1 s. if he finds his own victuals, and 6 d. if victuals are afforded him. The masons and wrights most frequently work by the piece.—Coal, Scotch and English, is the chief article of fuel here, though peat, turf, furze, broom, and wood, are likewise occasionally used. The Scotch coal is at present about 8 s. the boll at the port of Montrose, the boll weighing 70 stone, cartage from thence about 1 s. 6 d. or 2 s. the boll, according to the distance. The English coal, which is likewise much used, is about 1 s. 6 d. the barrel, six barrels being supposed rather better than a boll of Scotch. Peat from the mosses in Fettercairn parish, about 6 miles distant, is bought on the spot out of stacks at 1 s. the foot, the cartage about 1 s. 6 d. the cart load. The cart load of broom or furze, costs from 1 s. to 1 s. 6 d. ; turf can scarcely be got at any price ; dead wood is sold here at about half value. With regard to the expence of a common labourer when married, if he have a family consisting of three or four children, it cannot be less than L. 12 or L. 13 Sterling a-year ; yet if he and his wife be frugal and industrious, they may make a shift to earn a tolerable livelihood, especially, if they have a kail yard, and maintenance for a cow, as is pretty generally the case here. The man may gain at the rate of 8 d. or 9 d. a day, the wife, by spinning, may earn 8 d. or 1 s. a-week,

even



even when occasionally engaged in nursing; and the children, when 7 or 8 years of age, begin to be hired out as herds. Though the food of the labourer be but coarse, yet he has plenty of meal, potatoes, and milk, and his bed is generally good. Pottage, brose, and flummery, are the peasants three ordinary meals. The wages of men servants in husbandry throughout this parish and neighbourhood, are from L. 6 to L. 7 Sterling a-year, and they are commonly engaged half yearly. The wages of women servants, who are likewise engaged by the half year, are about L. 3 a-year, together with what is called bounties, consisting usually of an apron and a yard of coarse linen, value in all about 3 s. The harvest wages of men reapers are, now for good hands about L. 1, 5 s. and women ditto about 16 s. 8 d. besides victuals. When engaged by the day, men get about 1 s. women, 8 d. and their victuals.

*Stature, Manners, Dress, &c* —The people are ordinarily of a middling stature, the men being from 5 feet 5 inches high, to 5 feet 10, and the women from 5 feet 2 or 3 inches, to 5 feet 7, though there are several of the men 6 feet, and of the women 5 feet 9 or 10. There are instances of some individuals having reached the height of 6 feet 3 or 4 inches.—The people in general are disposed to industry, and seem fond of agriculture. There are no manufactures carried on in the parish, excepting the limeworks, bleaching, &c. already mentioned, only the women find excellent employment in spinning factory yarn, given out by the shopkeepers in the parish, for which at present they get at the rate of 1 s. and even 15 d. the spindle. The people do not seem to possess any fondness either for a seafaring or military life; the former, however, they look upon to be rather more reputable than the latter, which, on account of its supposed connexion with profligacy and  
Vol. IX. G irreligion,



irreligion, they regard in a degrading point of light, and when the son of sober and discreet parents insists to be a soldier, they give him up in a manner for lost. Though the parishioners here in general cannot be charged with want of œconomy, or with being more expensive or luxurious than their neighbours, yet it must be acknowledged, that their mode of living now is widely different from what it was 30 or 40 years ago. About that time, excepting in the houses of persons of property or in a genteel station, tea was unknown; but now there is scarcely a house in the parish, excepting those in indigent circumstances, in which tea is not used at least once a-week, and by many of the farmers twice a-day. Formerly butcher meat was seldom or never used by the lower or middling ranks, except about Christmas, but now it is no unfrequent article at any season of the year. Next to oat and bear meal, potatoes, which begin to be much cultivated, constitute the principal food of the poorer class.—The mode of dress likewise, within these 20 or 30 years past, has undergone a very considerable alteration. Formerly the women of inferior stations appeared at church on Sundays in bed blankets, or tartan plaids; but now they wear scarlet plaids, or duffle cloaks and bonnets; and maid-servants are sometimes as well dressed as their mistresses. Formerly farmers and respectable tradesmen were contented with the blue bonnet, and with say for their best clothes, while hiremen and apprentices wore coarse grey, or white woollen cloth, home made; but now, not only farmers and master tradesmen, but farmers servants, apprentices, and cottagers, frequently appear at kirk and market in hats and English broad cloth. Formerly clocks and watches were not used in the parish, excepting, perhaps, by the laird or minister; but now, in general, every farmer has his eight-day clock, and almost every servant has his watch.—With regard to the style in which



which the gentry in this parish live, it can scarcely be reckoned more splendid and sumptuous than it was 20 or 30 years ago, though, generally speaking, there is an increase both of splendour and luxury in many places of the neighbourhood, occasioned chiefly by the influx of wealth from the East and West Indies.

*Antiquities.*—There are in the parish or district of Logie, at nearly a mile to the west of the mansion-house of Craigo, and a little to the right of the public road, leading from the Old North Water Bridge to Montrose, three remarkable tumuli, called the three Laws of Logie, and not far from thence, on the border of the parish of Montrose, a fourth tumulus, called Leighton's Law. Of the three Laws of Logie, two have been opened, in digging sand or gravel for the roads. In one of these, some years ago, was found a stone coffin; not any ways cut or wrought, but consisting of separate pieces in a natural state, something resembling grey slate stones. Within it was a human skeleton, having the bones of an extraordinary size, mostly entire and of a deep yellow colour, but when touched, exceedingly brittle. The second Law was found to contain four human skeletons, deposited only at about a foot depth from the surface, likewise consisting of exceedingly large bones; and at a very little distance from these was found a beautiful ring, supposed to be of ebony, as black as jet, of a fine polish, and in perfect preservation. This ring, which the minister of the parish has in his custody, is of a circular form, flat in the inside, and rounded without; its circumference is about 12 inches, and diameter 4. The thickness of its rim in the middle is more than half an inch, and its greatest breadth about an inch and a half, which diminishes in a gradual proportion till it is only about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. It lets in an ordinary hand, would fit a pretty large



large wrist or arm, and perhaps may have been worn as a bracelet by some person of distinction. In the same tumulus, at about 4 feet from the surface, was found an urn full of ashes, something in the shape of a common bottle without a bottom, lying horizontally, with the neck end close, and of a substance resembling a crucible. There were likewise discovered in the same place several cavities, near 6 feet from the surface. The third and largest of the three Laws, which has not yet been broken up, contains a space equal to the  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an acre, nearly circular, with a sort of fosse round it, filled up with round stones, intermingled with pieces of glass. There is reason to believe, that these Laws, if duly examined, would be found to contain many more bones, urns, &c. : but there is no tradition concerning them, by which it can be ascertained whether they have been raised by the Danes or Romans, or ancient Caledonians. Mention is made by Buchanan in his history of Scotland, to which Gordon alludes in his *Itenerarium Septentrionale*, that about 1000 years ago, a little before the celebrated battle of Luncarty, in the reign of Swino, a party of Danes landed at the mouth of the Esk, and fought in that neighbourhood several skirmishes with the Scots ; and it is not improbable but these Laws or mounds might have then been raised, in burning or burying the slain. Or, as Law is a word of Saxon origin, perhaps these tumuli might have been begun by the Saxons, who, at a very early period, are said to have made incursions all along the coast of this island. The three Laws, with the adjacent ground, have been lately inclosed and planted by the proprietor of Craigo.—East from the above Laws, in a straight line, and within a plantation of Craigo's, are three large stones set up on end, with two others very near them, in a similar position ; and to the east of all are the remains of a circular fort of building, about 16 yards in diameter. The ground  
was



was lately trenched, but no mark of human bones discovered. This is conjectured to have been a drudical temple.

*Roads, Bridges, &c.*—There are two, or rather three public roads, leading through the united parish. Besides these, are sundry private or by-roads. Till a year or two ago, the roads in the parish were made and kept in repair by statute labour; but by a late act of Parliament, the statute labour in this county was converted into money. By the act, the occupiers of lands, whether proprietors or tenants, are liable to pay yearly, an assessment in money, for the lands occupied by them respectively, according as the said lands stand valued in the tax-roll of the county, at a rate not exceeding the sum of L. 1, 4s. Sterling for each L. 100 Scots of valued rent. Accordingly in this parish, now, the landed proprietors being assessed in proportion to their valued rents, levy the assessment from their tenants according to the real rents they pay, and they again from their subtenants; the proprietors, at the same time, being accountable for what they themselves occupy. This mode is deemed rather more favourable to the poorer class of inhabitants, than the exaction of the statute labour in kind, but is thought more burdensome on the farmer. Turnpikes are considered as by no means necessary here; and the erecting of them at present would be rather an unpopular measure.—With regard to bridges, 2 have been built this summer in the parish of Logie, chiefly by subscription, on the road leading from Marykirk to Montrose. On the west public road are 2 small bridges, built some years ago. As to being kept in repair, they are now upon the same footing with the public roads. The principal bridge in the parish, and which connects it with the Mearns, is the North Water Bridge, consisting of 3 arches, of exceeding  
strong



strong work. This is now commonly called the Old Bridge, with a reference to the new one, which some years ago was built across the North Water, near the mouth of it, on the great coast road. The old North Water Bridge was built by John Erskine of Dun, superintendant of Angus and Mearns, upwards of 200 years ago. Concerning the builder of this North Water Bridge, popular tradition says, "That having had a dream or vision, that unless he should build a bridge over Stormy Grain, where 3 waters run in one, he would be miserable after death. Accordingly going out one day in a pensive mood, and walking along the banks of the North Esk, he met an old woman near the spot where the bridge now stands, and asking the name of the place, received for answer, that it was called Stormy Grain, where 3 waters run in one. Hence, recognising this to be the spot to which his dream alluded, he immediately set about building a bridge there; but the bridge being founded, and the work going on, a speat in the river swept it away, upon which he ordered the bridge to be begun anew. But after it was considerably advanced, it tumbled down a second time. Mr Erskine was now so much discouraged, that he fell into a deep melancholy, and kept his bed. One day, however, observing a spider attempting to weave a web, he saw it fall down; making a second attempt, it was equally unsuccessful; but trying a third time, it succeeded. Accordingly encouraged by this, he caused it be begun a third time, and had the good fortune to succeed." Whether there be any real ground for this traditionary story or not, it is by no means abhorrent from the cast of mind that characterised those times.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In 1782, the crop was not all got in till considerably after Martinmas. Ten bolls of bear were then purchased at the session's expence, for the use  
of



of the poor at the rate of 24 s. the boll, and were either sold at a reduced price, or given gratis; besides a present of 10 bolls, consisting of a mixture of oats, barley, rye, &c. received then from Government, was distributed among the poor. Oat-meal here at that time sold at 20 s. the boll.—There are two principal alehouses, in a manner necessary, as being on public roads, with one or two more, perhaps, less requisite. The bad effects of these on the morals of the people are not very perceptible, though the increase of public houses both in town and country is always to be regretted. The heavy Excise laws, and the enormous duty on malt, make beer less brewed in private families than formerly, though perhaps, whisky is more used. Within these ten years past, near 30 new houses or cottages have been built in the parish where there were none before; perhaps, about half a dozen during that space have been pulled down, or suffered to fall into ruins. Employing cottagers in agriculture, is thought by some of the farmers here to be less frugal than keeping hired servants in the house, though it no doubt, is more favourable to population.—The meadows and lower grounds on the Northesk are very subject to inundations, which have sometimes done considerable damage, especially in the time of harvest. In 1774, when the river rose to an almost unprecedented height, it swept away a great deal of cut corn, and laid flat sundry fields that were uncut, spoiling them with sand; and last autumn, an uncommon flood swept away from a farm in this neighbourhood, on the opposite banks of the river, more than half an acre of ground, with about 60 bolls of lime lying upon fallow; at any time six hours of wind and rain from the S. or S. E. will make it rise, so as to overflow all its banks.—In the year 1784, a very remarkable meteor was seen here, as it was through the most part of the kingdom, as well as in some foreign parts. It made  
its



its appearance about 7 o'clock in the evening, moving in a rapid and majestic manner, something in a direction from N. W. to S. E. having its visible magnitude equal to that of the full moon, and a light much superior; at length it disappeared as it were in the ocean. This meteor must have been of prodigious bigness, its velocity immense, and its altitude many miles.—The common people here make use of the ordinary Scottish dialect, with less tone than they speak in Fife, though not near so short as they do in Aberdeenshire. With regard to the names of places in the parish, many of them seem to be of Gaelic or Celtic extraction.—Property in land here is very often changing; of this there have been no less than four material instances in the united parish of Logie and Pert, within 8 or 10 years past; and during that period, or little more, near the banks of the Northesk, and within the extent of 5 or 6 miles, no fewer than 8 estates have been in the market, and changed their proprietors. This rapid alienation of property, may in one instance or two be accounted for on political considerations, but is chiefly imputable to the two following causes:—Some of the old proprietors having been men of pleasure, and not sufficiently attentive to their worldly interest, were obliged to sell their land from the impulse of necessity, or pecuniary embarrassment; others of them, again, who had several children, having, in contradiction to the old feudal spirit, made liberal provision in their settlements for the younger branches of their families; this rendered the sale of their estates unavoidable on their demise. Land sells here at 25 or 30 years purchase, and seems to be on the increase.—The people are by no means ungenerous or uncharitable, according to their circumstances; if at any time they see virtue or industry in distress, their chearful and ready support is not wanting; but when vice is plunged into wretchedness, perhaps their pity is too much withheld,  
from



from not making a proper discrimination between the person and the crime, the vice and the misery it involves. The people enjoy the comforts and advantages of society in a very tolerable degree, though the increase of taxation, and of the price of provisions, especially with regard to the poorer class, operates as a considerable abatement. Several of the tenants enjoying long leases at the old rent, which is nearly one half less than what their farms would let for at present, have in their hands the means of a comfortable subsistence, and by industry and frugality may become rich. But the new leases in general being pretty far stretched, and the wages of servants every year growing higher, those, it is to be presumed, who hold such leases, if they are not extremely active and industrious indeed, must find considerable difficulties. Were the wages of servants rendered in some measure stationary, and greater moderation observed in the raising of rents, not only might tenants and their servants be on a more eligible footing, but landed proprietors would enjoy greater and more permanent security, besides the generous satisfaction of not entirely engrossing the fruits of honest industry. Were there premiums allotted by monied men for the improvement of barren ground, and the melioration of ground already in some measure cultivated, (the improvement or melioration to be estimated by an impartial jury,) many beneficial consequences might ensue.



## NUMBER V.

## PARISH OF ERSKINE,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY.)

By the Rev. WALTER YOUNG, M. A. F. R. S. Edin.

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Name, &c.

THE name *Erskine* was written in ancient charters *Iriskyn*. Antiquaries are not agreed, whether the family of Mar, who held the lands of Erskine until the year 1638, gave their surname to the lands, or received it from them. Crawford is of the latter opinion, in consequence of his general principle with regard to the assumption of fixed surnames by the proprietors of land. Other antiquaries relate a story of the surname *Eris-Skynes* having been given by King Malcolm II. to the founder of that noble family, on occasion of a military achievement. The lands or castle of Erskine have probably given name to the church, and of course to the whole parochial district annexed to it. The form of the



the parish is oblong; the length from east to west, and a little north, is about 6 English miles, and the breadth from 3 to 4; the number of acres which it contains is not known. It is bounded on the north wholly by the river Clyde.

*Surface and Soil.*—The general appearance of the eastern part of the parish is flat, with gentle swells. A ridge of hilly ground runs through the western division. As this however declines gradually on the north side towards the Clyde, and on the south towards a valley, there are even in that division considerable tracts of arable ground. The soil is in general light and not deep. In the north-east part of the parish, it is a blackish or dark grey mould, mixed with gravel, having under it gravel, or a mixture of sand, clay, and gravel; in some places till, and under that rotten rock or freestone. From this structure, that tract abounds with springs of excellent water. The soil being warm and dry, is well adapted for producing oats, bear, and sown grasses; it also yields plentiful crops of potatoes of the best quality, and of turnips. It is not so proper for wheat and pease; and even the oats and barley which it produces are somewhat inferior in quality, or weigh less to the measure than what are produced in stronger and deeper soils. But perhaps the most valuable property of this soil is the disposition it has to run to grass. When it is allowed to rest, if it has been judiciously managed, and not over-cropped, it in a year or two becomes covered with a thick sward of grass, often mixed with white clover, which, though not of the richest quality, is abundant, and continually improves during the 4 or 5 years that the ground remains in pasture. The same things may be observed of the western division of the parish; only as that is more hilly, the soil is more shallow and stony, and in general  
lies



lies over whin rock. There are 6 or 7 farms in the south-east part of the parish, which are situated along the edge of, or within an extensive tract of flat or carse ground, a great part of which is covered with peat moss, and has probably been all so. The soil of these farms is a deep clay, and abundantly fertile. It may also be observed, that forest trees thrive well in many places of the parish, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Clyde.—There is no lake nor river in the parish; the boundaries of it are for the most part marked out by small streams or burns. The Clyde, which washes the northern edge, is in breadth, when the tide is full, from about a quarter of a mile at the east, to above a mile and a half at the west end of the parish. The ground immediately adjoining to the Clyde is every where flat. The breadth of this plain is various; at one place, (hence called Longhaugh), it may be near a quarter of a mile; but in most places, it is not above the half or fourth part of that extent. Behind the plain, the bank generally rises pretty suddenly to a considerable height. As the Clyde has such a wide bed, land floods seldom raise it very considerably, unless a strong S. W. wind, and a high tide occur at the same time. In that case, some of the low grounds are covered, but seldom any remarkable mischief is done.—There are some freestone quarries in the eastern part of the parish. Two of them in one of Lord Blantyre's parks have been wrought of late for the great canal, and for building new quays for the ferry. Some appearances of coal have been discovered in these grounds, but they have never been properly pursued. The hills in the west part of the parish are in general green; the tops of them only are covered with heath.

*Climate*



*Climate and Diseases.*—Although a considerable quantity of rain falls here, as in all other places on the western side of the island, the air cannot properly be called moist, and may be pronounced upon the whole healthy. By the light soil, and gravelly bottom, the water is soon absorbed, or it runs off by the hollows; and as any hollow, or flat pieces of ground, which are not ploughed, are always compleatly covered with grass, there are no unwholesome marshes. Agues, dysenteries, and such other diseases as are occasioned by noxious effluvia from the soil, are scarcely known by name. The most prevalent distempers are fevers, arising from cold and other causes. These at times become in some degree epidemic, or go thro' a considerable number of families. These epidemics are hardly ever of a very malignant nature, and seldom above 3 or 4 persons die in the course of them. They are probably spread and aggravated more than they would otherwise be, from two causes, both of which, however, are gradually diminishing: 1<sup>st</sup>, From large families being often crowded together in small houses, where too little attention is given to cleanliness and ventilation; and, 2<sup>dly</sup>, From an idea which the country people have, that it is their duty frequently to visit their neighbours when in distress. Hence it happens, that the place in which the sick persons are lying is frequently crowded with people, the patients are stifled, and the infection is spread. These epidemic fevers appear at the rate of about once in 2 or 3 years. The small-pox still makes occasionally considerable ravages among the children, as the people are only beginning to overcome their prejudices against inoculation.

*Ferries.*—There are 2 ferries across the Clyde in this parish. One of them, called the East Ferry, or Ferry of Erskine, is nearly opposite to the village of Kilpatrick, and serves for transporting horses and carriages, as well as foot-passengers.



passengers. The quays for it were lately built, and are abundantly commodious. The other called the West Ferry, is opposite to the castle of Dunbarton, and is chiefly used for foot-passengers.

*Fisheries.*—There are two or three salmon fisheries in the Clyde, as it passes along this parish; but as the fishing banks are more contiguous to the opposite or Kilpatrick shore, none of them are occupied by inhabitants of this parish. The fish are taken in large nets, the rope of one end of which being made fast to the shore or bank, and the net laid in folds upon the flat end of a boat, the boat is rowed a certain way into the river, dropping the net as it goes along, and, having made a sweep against the tide, is brought back to the place from which it set out. The net is immediately afterwards drawn ashore. The right of catching salmon on most of the fishing banks in Clyde from Renfrew, as far down as the confines of Ayrshire, belongs by ancient charter to the burgh of Renfrew. The salmon fishery in this tract has, for many years, been rather scanty. The operations for improving the navigation of the river, which were executed by the town of Glasgow about 20 years ago, are thought to have been prejudicial to it. The salmon are either carried to Renfrew, or sold in the neighbourhood. The medium price is about 5 d. or 6 d. the pound. Besides salmon, there are in this tract of Clyde, considerable quantities of large red trout, which are sometimes caught by set lines; and people who have proper nets, often take considerable quantities of spirlings, (smelts) and of shrimps.

*State of Property.*—The landed property of this parish is distributed among 8 heritors, whose valued rent exceeds L. 100 Scots, and 9 smaller heritors or feuars. The land is



is occupied by 10 proprietors, who keep in their own hand the whole or some part of their ground; by 48 tacksmen, who may be called farmers, in so far as they subsist wholly or chiefly by their farms; by 12 who have smaller farms, and when not employed upon them, work as day-labourers; and lastly, by 22 handicrafts men, or people of different professions, who have small pieces of ground taken either from the landlords or from tenants for supplying their families with milk and other articles of provision. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4451 Scots. The real rent is at present about L. 2980 Sterling.

*Cultivation.*—Of the whole land of the parish, about two thirds are arable, and nearly that proportion may be in a regular course of tillage and pasture. The old system was to take at least two, and for the most part three successive crops of oats, and after that to allow the ground to rest, as it was called, or to remain in pasture. The farmers used their own dung, so far as it would go, for potatoes and bear, but imported no foreign manure. This was nearly the state of husbandry till about the year 1775 or 1776, when the late Alexander Lord Blantyre, having, upon the death of his brother, succeeded to the estates and honours of that family, came to reside at Erskine. He had for a number of years before that time been engaged in a course of practical farming in East Lothian, in consequence of which he had not only acquired an accurate and extensive knowledge of the general principles of agriculture, but was able to descend into the detail of it, and to direct and oversee every minute operation. He was immediately sensible, that the husbandry of East Lothian would not suit the light soil and moist climate of Erskine. He perceived, at the same time, that the system of the country was bad, and that by more gentle cropping, by more plentiful manuring,  
and



and by introducing fallow crops and sown grasses, the ground would be gradually improved, and its produce upon the whole augmented, so as more than to repay the additional expence. That he might be well acquainted with the nature and the powers of the soil, as well as set an example to the country, he took under his own management the parks of Erskine, and two or three farms in the neighbourhood. The system which he pursued was nearly as follows: After the previous necessary operations of inclosing, draining, clearing of stones, &c. he took a crop of oats. The following year, after three and sometimes four ploughings, and plentiful liming and dunging, he took a fallow crop. For this he preferred turnips, as he never failed to have a large return of them, as they stood the winter better than cabbage, and left the ground in better condition than potatoes; and, as the soil had not sufficient depth for carrots or parsnips, the third year he laid down the field with grass-seeds. As a crop or nurse to the grass seeds, he tried wheat, barley, and early Essex oats. The first did not succeed well, and upon the whole he gave the preference to the last. He cut the hay for one or two years thereafter, and then allowed the ground to remain in pasture.

Soon after he settled at Erskine, the leases of most of the farms in the barony expired. He was very unwilling to dispossess the old families, some of whom had occupied these grounds for generations. He knew at the same time, that they had neither stock nor skill sufficient to enable them to pay a rent adequate to the real value of the land. He proposed to them to pay a very moderate advance of rent, less indeed than most of them expected, with about 7 or 8 *per cent.* of the expence of inclosing; but that they should be bound to observe a mode of management similar to his own; in particular, that they should not have two



successive crops of oats upon the same ground, and that they should introduce turnips and sown grasses into their system. With these conditions all of them but one complied, and took their farms for 19 years. They however complained of the restrictions. They thought, that they were allowed too few crops of oats, the staple commodity of the country, during the course of their lease; they were not well acquainted with the turnip husbandry, nor with the method of buying, fattening, and selling cattle. Upon after reflection, his Lordship thought proper to relax the rigour of his restrictions, and to allow them more discretionary powers. From the example, however, which he had given them, and the spirit he had infused into them, they all began with vigour to improve their farms. They purchased considerable quantities of lime and foreign manure. They became more active and industrious; and though the turnip husbandry was never carried by them to any extent, and is now generally laid aside, they all adopted the practice of laying down their fields in good condition with sown grasses, having a ready and secure market for their hay in the towns of Port-Glasgow and Greenock. The consequence of this has been, that the country is considerably improved both in appearance and in value; the tenants are easy in their circumstances, and indeed wealthy for their station; their rent is paid in general with perfect punctuality, and there is every reason to believe, that, upon the expiration of the leases, they or their sons will be able and willing to pay a rent equal to what may be considered as the just value of the ground. The writer of this account feels a particular satisfaction in having an opportunity of exhibiting such an example, and at the same time of paying a deserved tribute to the memory of an amiable and respectable nobleman, and a most worthy and useful citizen, whose death was lamented by people of all ranks in this country as a



public misfortune. His conduct as a landlord was not only humane, but highly judicious, as it equally tended to promote the real interest of the proprietor and tenant, and the general advantage of the country.

About 20 years ago, the two-horse plough, with the curved mould board and feathered sock, was introduced into this country by Mr George Orde. The use of it is now become universal, and the country wrights construct it with neatness and accuracy \*.

The larger tenants commonly make the greatest part of their oats into meal, for which there is a constant demand. Of this they retain what is necessary for their own families. They dispose of part in the neighbourhood, and the rest they either send to public market, or sell to the dealers in the neighbouring towns. They dispose of their potatoes and hay in the same manner; and almost the whole of the bear or barley that is raised, is carried to the towns. The labourers, handicraftsmen, and smaller tenants, who do not raise produce sufficient for their families, either purchase from the larger tenants, or when the price of meal is high, and the ports are open, they buy Irish, or other imported meal; so that there is frequently both an exportation and importation of this principal article of provision. What the proportion may be cannot well be ascertained; it varies every year according to the seasons and the prices of grain. It is believed, however, that upon the whole there is considerably more corn, &c. produced, and more sheep and

\* Oats are sown about the middle or end of March and through the month of April; and bear in the month of May. The time of reaping is various, depending on the season. The harvest is seldom fairly begun before the 1st of September, and it is generally completed by the 1st of November.



and cattle fed in the parish than are consumed by the inhabitants\*.

*Population.*—By the poll-book of the county of Renfrew, made up in the year 1695, there is reason to believe, that the number of souls in this parish was at that time considerably above 900. By the returns to Dr Webster in 1750, it was 829. From lists taken up by the present minister in 1771, the number of souls appeared to be about 870. The year after that, a tract of land, which had been let in small farms, and upon which 12 families resided, was, at the expiration of the leases, converted wholly into a grazing farm. At present no more than 3 families live in that tract in houses lately built, the old steadings having been allowed to fall. In the course of a few years after that, 1 or 2 small farms, and some cottages, were suppressed, by which the population was still farther diminished. Since that time it has been pretty much stationary, and is rather greater at present than it was 8 or 10 years ago. —By an accurate enumeration, made in the beginning of the year 1792, the numbers were as under:

|          |   |   |       |
|----------|---|---|-------|
| Males,   | - | - | 402   |
| Females, | - | - | 406   |
|          |   |   | <hr/> |
| Total,   | - | - | 808   |

Under

\* From 1 to 12 acres may be annually employed in raising flax for private use. There are 3 corn-mills in the parish. The yearly rent of the best arable ground is 20s.; of inferior ditto 10s. and upwards; of the best pasture ground 21s.; and of inferior ditto 7s. 6d. the acre.



|                       |   |     |
|-----------------------|---|-----|
| Under 10 years,       | - | 211 |
| From 10 to 20,        | - | 170 |
| —— 20 to 50,          | - | 320 |
| —— 50 to 70,          | - | 88  |
| —— 70 to 80,          | - | 17  |
| —— above 80,          | - | 2   |
| Of whom one is about, | - | 90  |

|           |   |     |    |    |   |     |
|-----------|---|-----|----|----|---|-----|
| Families, | - | 1   | of | 17 | — | 17  |
| ——        | - | 1   | of | 13 | — | 13  |
| ——        | - | 3   | of | 12 | — | 36  |
| ——        | - | 3   | of | 11 | — | 33  |
| ——        | - | 4   | of | 10 | — | 40  |
| ——        | - | 10  | of | 9  | — | 90  |
| ——        | - | 12  | of | 8  | — | 96  |
| ——        | - | 19  | of | 7  | — | 133 |
| ——        | - | 21  | of | 6  | — | 126 |
| ——        | - | 15  | of | 5  | — | 75  |
| ——        | - | 18  | of | 4  | — | 72  |
| ——        | - | 14  | of | 3  | — | 42  |
| ——        | - | 16  | of | 2  | — | 32  |
| ——        | - | 3   | of | 1  | — | 3   |
| Total,    | - | 140 |    |    |   | 808 |

Average to a family, nearly 5 $\frac{7}{8}$

|                          |   |                           |   |    |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---|----|
| Wrights, (masters, jour- |   | Cooper,                   | - | 1  |
| neymen, and appren-      |   | Millers,                  | - | 4  |
| tices),                  | - | Ferryman,                 | - | 3  |
| Weavers, ditto,          | - | Household male-servants,  | 5 |    |
| Shoemakers,              | - | Labouring ditto,          | - | 45 |
| Smiths,                  | - | Female-servants           | - | 82 |
| Tailors,                 | - | Bachelors, heads of fami- |   |    |
| Masons,                  | - | lies,                     | - | 9  |
|                          |   | Unmarried                 |   |    |



|                                                                                                                             |   |    |                                                                              |   |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|------|
| Unmarried women above 45,                                                                                                   | - | 10 | Seceders,                                                                    | - | none |
| Widowers,                                                                                                                   | - | 8  | Cameronian,                                                                  | - | 1    |
| Widows,                                                                                                                     | - | 23 |                                                                              |   |      |
| Hheads of families, who were not born in the parish,                                                                        | - | 62 | Ploughs,                                                                     | - | 61   |
| Of these born in the neighbouring parishes, and connected by marriage or consanguinity with the old families of the parish, | - | 25 | Horses,                                                                      | - | 170  |
|                                                                                                                             |   |    | Cattle domestic,                                                             | - | 695  |
|                                                                                                                             |   |    | Ditto grazing,                                                               | - | 195  |
|                                                                                                                             |   |    | Sheep,                                                                       | - | 230  |
|                                                                                                                             |   |    | Public-houses, including Cross-hill, the stage between Glasgow and Greenock, |   | 8    |

There is a register of baptisms and marriages, from November 1705 to the present time, which appears to have been regularly kept, unless, perhaps, for some few years before and after the year 1750. From this register, the following numbers of baptisms and marriages, in the several periods of 10 years, from the beginning of the year 1710, to the beginning of 1790, have been extracted.

**Baptisms.**



|      |      |    |      | Baptisms. |     | Marriages. |     |
|------|------|----|------|-----------|-----|------------|-----|
| From | 1710 | to | 1720 | —         | 344 | —          | 147 |
| —    | 20   | to | 30   | —         | 304 | —          | 100 |
| —    | 30   | to | 40   | —         | 277 | —          | 99  |
| —    | 40   | to | 50   | —         | 224 | —          | 92  |
| —    | 50   | to | 60   | —         | 193 | —          | 76  |
| —    | 60   | to | 70   | —         | 233 | —          | 76  |
| —    | 70   | to | 80   | —         | 192 | —          | 71  |
| —    | 80   | to | 90   | —         | 237 | —          | 82* |

Of these numbers annual averages may easily be taken. No regular register of burials was ever kept here, till towards the end of the year 1783. The numbers of baptisms, marriages, and burials, in each of the 8 years, from the 1st of January 1784, to the 1st of January 1792, are as under :

|           | Baptisms. |                  | Marriages. |                 | Burials. |                  |
|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| 1784,     | —         | 24               | —          | 10              | —        | 19               |
| 85,       | —         | 23               | —          | 12              | —        | 17               |
| 86,       | —         | 33               | —          | 10              | —        | 10               |
| 87,       | —         | 17               | —          | 7               | —        | 20               |
| 88,       | —         | 27               | —          | 8               | —        | 12               |
| 89,       | —         | 29               | —          | 2               | —        | 19               |
| 90,       | —         | 21               | —          | 7               | —        | 12               |
| 91,       | —         | 25               | —          | 13              | —        | 21               |
|           |           | <hr/>            |            | <hr/>           |          | <hr/>            |
|           |           | 199              |            | 69              |          | 130              |
| Averages, | -         | 24 $\frac{7}{8}$ |            | 8 $\frac{5}{8}$ |          | 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ |

The

\* The average of births to a marriage is probably near 6, if not above it. The number of barren marriages is extremely small. The greatest part of marriages produce from 7 children to 10 or upwards.



The excess of the population above the usual proportion of births and burials is probably to be accounted for chiefly from this circumstance: The greatest part of the servants in the parish come from Argyleshire, between the ages of 14 and 20. Many of these, after remaining a few years, leave the parish, and are replaced by others. As they have commonly got over the childrens diseases before they come here, and are remarkably healthy, very few of them die during their residence in the parish. They therefore increase the population, without at all increasing the number of baptisms, or sensibly increasing the number of burials. If to 650, the product of 25 by 26, there be added 127, the number of servants, the sum 777 probably exceeds the mean population, for the period for which the average is taken.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend is 110 bolls 1 firloft of oat-meal, and L. 25 : 18 : 2 $\frac{10}{12}$  Sterling of money, including communion-elements. The glebe consists of between 5 and 6 acres of ground, all arable. Lord Blantyre is patron. —The schoolmaster teaches reading, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping. His salary is 200 merks Scots a-year, besides L. 1 Sterling as session-clerk, and 10s. for teaching poor children; he has also a free house. He receives for teaching reading 1s. 6d. the quarter, and 2s. for writing and arithmetic. The average number of scholars is 30.—The annual amount of the various branches of the fund for the relief of the poor, on an average of 10 years, including the interest of L. 120 of accumulated stock, is L. 27, 6s. At present 9 persons, including a foundling boy, receive regular pensions, and 3 or 4 receive occasional supplies. There are no begging poor belonging to the parish.

*Language.*



*Language.*—The western dialect of the Scots language, is perhaps no where spoken in greater purity than in this and the adjoining parishes. The most striking peculiarity of that dialect, is a disposition to shorten the penult and prolong the last syllable of words, when the structure of them admits of that being done. The vowel which is expressed in the penult syllable, is for the most part the obscure imperfect sound which the English give to the character *e* when between two consonants; and the lengthened vowel of the last syllable is very often the English sound of *a* in the word *part*. The penult is pronounced with the acute accent, or rising inflection of the voice, and the last syllable with the inverted, or falling and rising circumflex. The intervals between the extremes of gravity and acuteness of tone, are often considerable.—A few names of places in this parish, as Glenhinnoch, Barcloch, and some others, beginning with the syllable *bar*, seem to be of Celtic origin; but the greatest part of them are English compounds, descriptive of the situation of the place, or expressing some circumstance relating to it, as Craigton, Longhaugh, Dryknows, Longbank, Woodcockhill, &c.

*Roads.*—The great turnpike road from Glasgow to Greenock passes through this parish. As this road has unfortunately been carried over some very high grounds, and in consequence of that is extremely incommodious for the heavy carriages which are continually passing between these towns, an act of Parliament has lately been obtained for making a new road along the side of the Clyde, the line which ought originally to have been pursued. This new road is now begun to be executed. Although there are excellent materials for making roads in most places of this parish, the cross roads through it are still in an indifferent condition, owing to the difficulty of calling out the  
statute



statute labour, and rendering it efficient. An act of Parliament has lately passed for converting the statute labour of this county into money, which, from the trial that has been made this summer, promises to be attended with the most beneficial effects.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The principal advantages of this parish may be accounted the dry soil and the good water with which it abounds, and the facility with which roads may be made through most places of it. The chief disadvantage is the distance and high price of coal, lime, and foreign manure; in consequence of which it will not probably, at least for a course of years, become a considerable seat of manufactures. There are extensive peat mosses in the parish and neighbourhood. This, however, is found to be a precarious and even an expensive fuel. Coals are every year becoming more in use, although the greatest part of them must be brought from about Glasgow, distant 13 or 14 miles; and, when carried by land, now cost 7 s. the cart of 10 or 11 hundred weight\*.

The prices of provisions, the day's wages of labourers in husbandry, of carpenters, masons, tailors, &c. and the wages of servants, are the same in this parish as in the neighbouring parishes of Houston and Kilallan. See vol. I. p. 324, 325. It may now be added to what is there stated, that in consequence of the rapid progress of manufactures in Paisley and the neighbouring towns and villages, the wages of country servants and labourers are continually rising, and to such a degree as to be severely felt by the farmers in the country. The sums, though considerable,

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which

\* Lime costs 13 s. or 14 s. the chaldron sharp measure, and dung from Port-Glasgow and Greenock can scarcely be laid upon the ground under 2 s. 6 d. the cart.



which they may expend in procuring lime and manure, may be refunded by the increased quantity and value of their produce; but the continually growing expence of management can be no otherwise repaid to them, but from the advanced price of their commodities; and from this advantage they are effectually precluded by the copious importation from Ireland and other places, which never fails to happen whenever the price of oat-meal exceeds 16 s. the boll. The effect of this may probably be, to induce the tenants in this country to turn a greater proportion of their lands into grafs. It is hardly necessary to observe, that every labourer, who is moderately industrious, has it in his power to make a decent provision for his family.

One of the last trials for witchcraft which happened in Scotland, had its origin in this parish in 1696-7. The person supposed to have been bewitched, or tormented by the agency of evil spirits, or of those who were in compact with them, was Christian Shaw, daughter of John Shaw of Bargarron, then about 11 years of age. A short account of this trial may be seen in Arnot's Collection of criminal trials. Three men and four women were condemned to death as guilty of the crime of witchcraft, and were executed at Paisley. A particular account or journal of the extraordinary circumstances of this case was drawn up at the time when it happened, every paragraph of which is affirmed to have been originally subscribed by witnesses, among whom we find the names of almost all the noblemen and gentlemen, and many of the ministers of the neighbourhood. The narrative was afterwards printed without these subscriptions, along with a very pious and decently written preface by the publisher. There were subjoined to it the attestations of a physician and surgeon, the judicial confessions of some of the persons accused of witchcraft, and an abstract of the pleadings of the advocates.



ates on the part of the Crown, and of their charge to the jury. These last, in their reasonings upon the nature of the evidence, and the credibility of the facts, and in the answers to objections, discover much learning and ability. A few copies of the original publication are still extant, and a new edition of it was a few years ago printed at Paisley. It may furnish ample matter of speculation to those whose object it is to trace the progress and variation of manners and opinions among men. The subsequent history of this lady is, however, more interesting to the political enquirer.

Having acquired a remarkable dexterity in spinning fine yarn, she conceived the idea of manufacturing it into thread. Her first attempts in this way were necessarily on a small scale. She executed almost every part of the process with her own hands, and bleached her materials on a large slate placed in one of the windows of the house. She succeeded, however, so well in these essays, as to have sufficient encouragement to go on, and to take the assistance of her younger sisters and neighbours. The then Lady Blandyre carried a parcel of her thread to Bath, and disposed of it advantageously to some manufacturers of lace, and this was probably the first thread made in Scotland that had crossed the Tweed. About this time a person who was connected with the family, happening to be in Holland, found means to learn the secrets of the thread manufacture, which was then carried on to great extent in that country, particularly the art of sorting and numbering the threads of different sizes, and packing them up for sale, and the construction and management of the twisting and twining machines. This knowledge he communicated on his return to his friends in Bargarron, and by means of it they were enabled to conduct their manufacture with more regularity and to a greater extent. The young women in  
the



the neighbourhood were taught to spin fine yarn, twining mills were erected, correspondences were established, and a profitable business was carried on. Bargarron thread became extensively known, and, being ascertained by a stamp, bore a good price. From the instructions of the family of Bargarron, a few families in the neighbourhood engaged in the same business, and continued in it for a number of years. It was not to be expected, however, that a manufacture of that kind could be confined to so small a district, or would be allowed to remain in so few hands for a great length of time. The secrets of the business were gradually divulged by apprentices and assistants. A Mr Pollock in Paisley availed himself of these communications, and laid the foundation of the well established and extensive manufacture of thread, which has ever since been carried on in that town. From that time, the women in this neighbourhood have continued to practise the spinning of fine yarn, which they disposed of to the Paisley manufacturers. Within this twelvemonth, however, many of them have laid aside the wheel, leaving that useful implement of domestic industry to be occupied by those of higher rank, and have applied themselves to the easier, the more elegant, and at present the more profitable employment of flowering muslins.



NUMBER VI.

P A R I S H o f M E L R O S E,

(COUNTY OF ROXBURGH, SYNOD OF MERSE AND TEVIOT-  
DALE, PRESBYTERY OF SELKIRK.)

*By the Rev. Mr GEORGE THOMSON.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**B**EFORE the abolition of hereditary jurisdictions, Melrose was a burgh of regality. The name is supposed to be Gaelic, compounded of *Mull* and *Rofs*, 'a bare promontory,' remarkably descriptive of a little peninsula about a mile to the east, formed by the windings of Tweed, which is still called *Old Melrose*, and famous for its ancient monastery, one of the first seats of the religious Culdees in this country. The parish is in length from N. to S. about 7 miles, and in breadth towards the N. 5, towards the S. near 7 miles.—The town of Melrose is pleasantly situated on the north side and bottom of the Eildon hills, and on the edge of a fertile valley, upwards of a mile in length, intersected



sected by Tweed running through it in a serpentine direction, and surrounded by hills of a considerable height. In this valley, besides Melrose, are the villages of Danielstoun, Darnick, Bridge-end, Gattonside, and Newstead, most of the inhabitants of which hold their possessions in feu, as do also the inhabitants of Eildon and Newtown, two villages farther down the river, and of Blainlie, a village on the west side of Leader, at the north extremity of the parish.

*Soil, Agriculture, and Produce.*—The soil is various. The south end of the parish is mostly a strong clay, excellently adapted for wheat. The banks of the Tweed are a fine light dry soil, fit for all kinds of grain. On the north side of the Tweed, the soil is of three kinds: *1st*, A light earth, mixed with sand, upon a gravelly bottom; *2dly*, A strong clay upon a till, full of springs, and very wet; *3dly*, Mofs. For about 5 miles square, the north part of the parish is hilly, and makes excellent sheep pasture, interspersed with a few small fields of corn. For its improvement it has been suggested, that the different proprietors should make large strips of plantations, inclosed with stone fences, both to shelter the land, and to consume the surface-stones which encumber it, and that the additional rent would amply compensate the trouble and expence.

Within these 30 years, the farmers have made vast progress in agriculture. Through their unremitting industry, a great quantity of ground, formerly covered with heath, broom, and furze, has been bared, and now produces excellent crops, or is converted into good pasture. The value of land has consequently very much increased. A feu of several acres, purchased about 40 years ago at L. 10, was lately sold at the advanced price of L. 150 Sterling.—The parish is supposed to produce double the quantity of grain that it did about that time. The manure employed is  
lime,



lime, marl, and dung. . The first of these, though distant 20 miles, and from some places 25, is in general very much used. As the land, owing to this distance, and to the advance in the price of cattle, wages of servants, &c. is improved at a great expence; the profit of the former scarcely bears a just proportion to the increase of rent, and of every other article.

The English plough drawn by 2 horses, has superseded the old heavy Scotch plough drawn by 4 oxen and 2 horses. The rotation of crops upon the clay land is fallow, succeeded by wheat; pease, barley laid down with grass and opened with oats. Upon the dry light land, it is fallow or turnip, barley laid down with grass and opened with oats. The wheat is of an excellent quality; the barley good, though inferior to that of the lower parts of Roxburghshire and Berwickshire; the oats in general produce, at an average, near 8 stone the boll, Linlithgow measure. Those of Blainlie have been long famed for feed. This must be owing to some peculiar coldness in the soil, and northerly or easterly exposure of the fields, which makes these oats agree with any soil and exposure to which they are carried. There is a great demand for them from England and different parts of Scotland, and they commonly fetch some shillings the boll above the ordinary price of seed oats.

The parish contains 280 horses, 1006 black cattle, 13,720 sheep. The black cattle are of a middling size, and excellent for fattening; in general, they do not exceed 60 stone when slaughtered. The sheep are of a breed between the long white-faced humble sheep, from the south of Teviotdale, and the short Highland kind. In smearing, to one pint of tar was formerly used only 2 lb. butter, but now 3 lb. and sometimes 4 lb. by which, though less smearing materials are found necessary, the expence is greater; but in return, the quantity of the wool is thereby increased, and the quality



lity improved. This last effect is not acknowledged by some of the farmers. A change of breed is the most effectual method of improving the wool, and it must be frequently done to prevent the wool from degenerating again, like grain sown often on the same ground. Some farmers allege, that the wool might be improved to a great extent, were they not prevented from making the attempt by the nature of the climate and pasture, as fine woolled sheep are more tender in their constitutions than those that are coarse, they are less able to bear the severity of the winter-storms, and never thrive upon a wet pasture. From want of attention to these circumstances in attempts to improve the wool, considerable loss has been sustained in this parish. As some pastures, from their being wet or dry, exposed or sheltered, are adapted to sheep of a hardy or a delicate constitution, this points out what quality of wool they can produce. By a few experiments on a small scale, the intelligent farmer will easily find out to what degree of improvement he can bring his wool, with safety to his flock.—Allowing 100 fleeces to a pack, the parish produces in 1 year  $137\frac{1}{8}$  packs of wool, which sells from 10s. to 15s. the stone.

There are several orchards about Melrose and the neighbourhood, and the gardeners raise a great many green and cabbage plants, which are carried to Clydesdale, and even so far as Dumfries. The fruit and plants together, may, at an average, yield annually L. 300.—The valued rent of the parish is L. 19,985 : 4 : 6 Scots.

*Manufactures.*—Melrose has long been famed for linens, named *Melrose land linens*, for which commissions have been received from London and foreign countries. So far back as the year 1668, the weavers were incorporated under what is called a *Seal of Cause*, from John Earl of Haddington,



dington, then " Lord of the lordship, and bailie principal of the regality of Melrose." For several years past this trade has, from a variety of causes, been very much upon the decline. If something does not occur to prevent it, Melrose will in all probability soon lose the name and *business*, (as they themselves express it), of manufacturing these linens. Its importance to this place, and its rapid decline, will appear from the following statement taken from the stampmaster's yearly abstract: From the 1st November 1754 to 1st November 1755, there were stamped 33,282½ yards, valued at L. 2575 : 10 : 11¼. In the 10 succeeding years there was no great rise or fall in the quantity and value of linens. From November 1764 to November 1765, there were stamped 32,300½ yards, value L. 2495 : 14 : 9¼. From November 1773 to November 1774, 20,789¾ yards, value L. 2051 : 16 : 7¼. In the following 10 years, the quantity was so far down as 17,792 yards, value L. 1845 : 12 : 4 Sterling \*.

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\* The following are the causes to which this decline has been ascribed: 1<sup>st</sup>, The attention of the trustees for manufactures, &c. has been principally directed, of late, to the encouragement of the woollen manufacture through Scotland. In Galashiels, and that part of this parish which is contiguous to it, they have laid out a considerable sum in buildings and machinery; and the manufacturers there have drawn annually, for several years, from L. 40 to L. 70 Sterling, in premiums. This has enabled them to give more to spinners, than the profits on linen can afford, and has, of course, diminished the number of linen-spinners, and spoiled their hands for that employment. 2<sup>d</sup>, Women-servants get so high wages, and are so much employed in out-work, that a sufficient number of them cannot be procured to spin linen-yarn, though the price of spinning it has been considerably advanced. About 10 years ago, the prices were only, for spinning 4 hanks yarn from 1 pound of lint, 1 s. 2 d.; for 5 hanks, 1 s. 4 d.; for 6 hanks, 1 s. 8 d.; and for 7 hanks, 2 s. The present prices are, for 4 hanks, 1 s. 7 d.; for 5 hanks, 1 s. 8 d.; for 6 hanks, 2 s.; and for 7 hanks, 2 s. 2 d.: Some spinners get for 7 hanks, 2 s. 4 d. 3<sup>dly</sup>, Since the American war, the price of Dutch flax has greatly risen, and the land here is mostly unfit for raising any.



A few hints have been suggested by the principal manufacturers for the recovery of this decaying trade. These shall be given in their own words: "Were the trustees to give encouragement to weavers by premiums and extras on well made pieces of linen, as was done through Scotland about 40 years ago, it might have as good an effect as it had then, the tradesmen being much better now than when they began their prizes at the above period; and were encouragement given also to young girls to spin properly, much might be expected. This could be done by employing some spinning mistresses in different little towns through the parish, and offering some prizes to the best spinners, in order to prompt the emulation of the scholars. Finally, were some attention paid by the proprietors to a decaying bleachfield, these things, and what else their wisdom may suggest, might still, through the blessing promised to the diligent, recover a falling back state of business."

In order to encourage this manufacture, the bleachfield mentioned above was set on foot through the patriotic exertions of the Reverend Mr James Brown, late one of the ministers of Edinburgh, and previously minister of this parish. During his residence at Melrose, and for several years afterward, the bleaching business was carried on with considerable spirit and success. For some time past it has declined. In dry seasons, there is a great scarcity of water in the field, though abundance might be procured at no great expence. The buildings are old and in great disrepair, and little is to be expected from the proprietors. The property is divided into a great many shares, so low as L. 5; so that the profits which might be derived from it are no ways adequate to stimulate the exertions of the proprietors, most of whom are in good circumstances, and independent of this business. Besides, no dividends of profits having been made among them for several years, they are little disposed to be at  
much



much expence in repairs and improvements on what they already consider as a dead stock. To carry on this business with advantage, the field should be let to an intelligent bleacher, or the property thrown into the hands of one or two proprietors who might find their account in superintending it.

Of late, however, it is said, that owing to the good management of the present bleacher, the business has been upon the increase. From his statement, it appears, that in the year 1787 there were whitened 715 pieces of linen; in 1788—855; in 1789—917; in 1790—1202; in 1791—1232. This cloth does not all belong to the parish, but is taken in from different parts of the country.

The woollen manufacture has of late been making considerable progress, especially in the neighbourhood of Galashiels, for which see the Statistical Account of that parish, Vol. II. p. 299. Besides what is done by them, there are manufactured annually in Gattonside and Melrose, at an average, about 282 stone of wool, the cloth of which may yield about L. 1041. Since November 1791, several looms, both here and in the neighbouring parishes, have been employed in weaving cottons. In addition to those employed by the manufacturers near Galashiels, there are 80 looms in the parish; 20 of which are employed in weaving cotton, 30 in woollen, and 30 in linen-work. During the summer, when the demand is greatest, some of the woollen looms are employed in weaving linen; but as cotton is found both more cleanly and more profitable than either woollen or linen, it is probable, that should the demand for it continue, the number of weavers employed in that line will gradually increase.

*Population, &c.*—This parish contains at present 2446 inhabitants. According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers



bers then were 2322. There are of these Burgher-Seceders 128; Anti-Burghers 151; Relief 53; Methodists 18; in all 350 dissenters. Besides these sectaries, some of the different classes of Independents and Anabaptists mentioned in the Statistical Account of Galashiels, have, with their manufactures, been imported into this parish. Mr Milne, in his description of this parish, published in 1743, makes the number of examinable persons 1800. If he comprehended all above 10 years of age, the population must have undergone little alteration, but seems rather to have increased than diminished\*.

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\* A statement might be given of births, marriages, and burials, from our parish-register, but it is very incomplete; because the Seceders, considering this as an appendage to the Established Church, rather than an institution calculated to promote the civil interest of their posterity, do not in general register the names of their children; and, because the temptation to neglect this among the lower classes of people, has also been increased by the late tax upon registration. They think that the money required out of their scanty funds, for this purpose, is better employed in providing against present wants, than in securing a very distant, and perhaps uncertain, good to their posterity. Nor can the marriage-register be depended on, as there are many irregular or (as they are commonly called here) o'er-the-march marriages. It is suspected that certificates to this purpose, are sometimes forged or antedated by the parties, in order to conceal a previous blunder that may have been committed. This practice is also countenanced by some Episcopal Clergymen upon the border, who, for the sake of the beggarly fee of office, marry all who apply to them, without even requiring any evidence of the parties being legally entitled to this privilege. There have also been instances of Fiscals in Royal Burghs, and of other Courts, summoning parties before a Justice of the Peace, who, on their acknowledging a previous marriage, (which perhaps never took place), decerns them to pay a fine, and adjudges one half of it to the prosecutor. Certificates of regular proclamations have also been produced, not only here, but in all the neighbouring parishes, from the Session-clerks of Edinburgh, Canongate, and West Church, in favour of people who were never two days resident within their bounds; and on such certificates, many marriages have been celebrated. This evil claims the attention of the Legislature.



The prevailing diseases in the parish are consumptions and rheumatisms. The latter may be owing to the severe cold to which the lower classes are exposed during the winter, from the vast expense of fuel, which cannot be used to such extent as is necessary for their health and accommodation. Coal, their principal fuel, is distant a mile farther than lime, and sells at 9d. and 10d. the hundred weight in summer, and sometimes higher in winter. The ague formerly prevailed much, but for some years has greatly subsided. This may be owing to the improvement of the country by drains, and to the people's being better fed and clothed.—They are now getting above the prejudices against inoculation. This happy discovery for the preservation of mankind is more and more practised, and with the greatest success. The writer of this account, as well as his predecessors, has, in his intercourse with the parishioners, laboured to obviate their scruples, and recommended the practice. Through such persuasion, several children have been inoculated, whose parents have afterward expressed their gratitude. It is hoped, that in a short time, a practice will become universal, which has been already begun, and through the blessing of God, will continue to be a mean of saving many infants from an early grave.

*Religion, &c.*—Notwithstanding the many religious sectaries which exist here, a spirit of mutual forbearance prevails. That inveterate rancour, to which the divisions in our church gave birth about 50 years ago, is now almost worn away through the friendly aid of time, the only cure for such an evil. All parties are disposed to live in peace, and to interchange the offices of good neighbourhood with one another. In so large a society, as may be expected, exceptions must be made. In general, however, the people have always been distinguished for their good sense, sobriety,



fobriety, and a decent and uniform attendance upon public ordinances. Those who adhere to the Established Church, are steady in their attachment to her principles and government, and are equally removed from a fiery bigotted zeal, and from a lukewarm indifference about religion.

*Stipend, School, &c.*—The Duke of Buccleugh is patron. The stipend, including L. 100 Scots for communion-elements, is 48 bolls of victual, 2-3ds oat-meal, and 1-3d bear, and L. 886 : 13 : 4 Scots. The glebe consists of 4 Scots acres, of the worst land in the neighbourhood, lies at an inconvenient distance from the manse, and has always been reckoned by the different incumbents to be incapable of improvement, and scarcely worth the labouring. It is hoped, that the heritors will soon see the propriety of removing this inconvenience, in return for the many fertile fields thrown into their hands by the Presbyterians at the Reformation, especially as the minister receives only L. 20 Scots for a grass-glebe.—The schoolmaster's salary, and other emoluments, are about L. 20 yearly, besides the fees of teaching in general near 80 scholars. He has also a commodious dwelling-house, and a tolerable garden. The stated school-fees are, the quarter, for English 1s. 6 d.; for writing 2s.; for writing and arithmetic 2s. 6 d.; and for Latin 5s. For the accommodation of the highland part of the parish, Mr Robert Moffat, portioner of Threepwood, mortified, in the year 1759, the sum of 1000 merks Scots, the interest of which is, in terms of the deed of mortification, applied towards the maintenance of a schoolmaster in that quarter.

*Poor.*—The poor are supported by a voluntary assessment of heritors, most of whom are feuars, and by the public collections made at the church-doors upon Sundays.

For



For this purpose, they regularly meet once every quarter, along with the kirk-session, to consider the state of the poor. At such meetings applications are made for admission to the charity-roll, and a weekly pension, or a temporary supply, is granted. No plan that has been adopted or conceived can be more just or beneficial than the one adopted here. By the lower classes of people the lands are cultivated, and their value increased. To whom, therefore, can they so naturally look for maintenance, when, through age or disease, they are unable to provide for themselves, as to those who may have reaped the fruits of their past industry, when in the vigour of their days, and favoured with health and strength? As the non-residing, as well as the residing heritors, are subject to this assessment; and as it is imposed according to the valuation of their respective properties, they are burdened only in proportion to their supposed advantages, from the past industry and expenditure of the poor. Upon the same principle, commerce might become an object of assessment, the value of which, (if not left to the capricious judgment of assuming superiors, but to an equitable jury), might, without entering into the secrets of trade, be nearly ascertained \*.

In

\* To prevent unnecessary applications, none are admitted upon the roll, without first surrendering all their little effects, of which a regular inventory is taken; and which effects are, upon the pauper's decease, but not sooner, sold for the benefit of the public. As their pride is generally interested to retain these effects as long as possible, few make application till forced by dire necessity. In cases of temporary distress, however, and where there is no appearance of a continuing burden, supply is granted without this surrender. The weekly pensions are small, and do not altogether supersede the necessity of charitable assistance from friends and neighbours. This will appear from the following statement: For the last 10 years, the average number of poor upon the roll, has been 148 persons; the annual expence of whose maintenance, has amounted to only

L. 87.



In addition to the above valuable account, transmitted by the Reverend Mr Thomson, the present minister, it may not be improper to subjoin the following short extracts, from a "Description of the parish of Melrose," published in 1743, by the Reverend Mr Milne, then pastor of that parish.

*Abbeys.*—The Monastery of Old Melrose was probably founded about the end of the sixth century. Bede\* gives us an account of its situation on the bank of the Tweed†, and likewise of its abbots. This place was a famous nursery for learned and religious men; and probably continued till the other one at the present Melrose was founded by King David. The convent of Old Melrose was inclosed with a stone

L. 87, 5s. Until lately, the heritors made a demand of one half of the weekly collections, and allowed the other half to be distributed by the kirk-session; but considering that their terms of meeting are distant, and that a great deal of distress might intervene, which would require instant relief, they have now given up the whole collections, to be distributed by the session. These collections are employed to meet the wants of such as may, through disease, be reduced to a temporary poverty; to augment the pensions of those upon the heritors roll, if found necessary; and if the funds will admit, the heritors sometimes recommend some of their petitioners for a temporary supply, to be relieved out of them. For these reasons, there are no beggars in the parish,—that nuisance to society, and oppression upon the public, particularly upon well-disposed people in the lower ranks, who are less able to bear it. In no place, indeed, are the poor better attended to, or supported at so small an expence. Charity is here reduced to a regular system of operation, which does not leave its objects to a precarious subsistence, but secures for them a certain well-regulated relief in the day of poverty and distress; and the objects of it are as happy as their reduced circumstances will admit.

\* The Venerable Bede was born A. D. 673.

† Bede's History, IV. 27.



stone wall, reaching from the south corner to the west corner of the Tweed, where the neck of land is narrow; and the foundations of the wall are still to be seen. I do not think there has been any great building about it; for as Bede acquaints us, their churches then were all of oak, and covered with reeds. The situation of the place is most pleasant and agreeable, being almost surrounded by Tweed, and having a fine prospect towards Gladswood.

About a mile to the west of this on the Tweed, stands the village of Newstead, a place remarkable for another abbey on the east side of it, called *Red Abbey-Steed*.

About half a mile from Newstead, on the same south side of the Tweed, stands the present *Abbey of Melrose*. It is famous for its monastery, which was very large and spacious, as appears from the ruins of it yet remaining; one of the most magnificent in the kingdom; and continues still to be the admiration of strangers, who, in respect of the height and embellishment of its columns, with all kind of sculpture, the beauty of its stones, and symmetry of its parts, reckon it one of the best of the Gothic structures they have seen. It was founded by King David in 1136; dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and endowed with large revenues and many immunities, as appears by the charters granted to the abbot and convent, by our kings. The monks were Cisterians, and the monastery of Melrose was a mother-church or nursery for all of that order, in many various and remote regions of Scotland.

The church is built in the form of St John's cross. The chancel, which is a very stately fabric, is still standing; its roof is very curious, and has much of the scripture history upon it. I have taken the measure of what is standing of this church, although much of the west part is so entirely demolished, that we cannot know how far it has reached in that direction. Its just length is 258 feet; breadth 137½;



circumference about 943; height of the south window 24, breadth 16; height of the east window  $34\frac{1}{2}$ , breadth  $15\frac{1}{2}$ ; height of the steeple 75; the spire gone. The east window, at which was the great altar, is a beautiful structure; consisting of 4 pillars or bars, with a great deal of curious work between them; and on each side, a great number of niches for statues. On the top, an old man with a globe in his left hand, resting on his knee, and a young man on his right; both in a sitting posture, with an open crown over their heads. On the north and south of this window, are two others of smaller dimensions. The niches are curiously carved, both the pedestals and canopies, and on which several figures of men and animals are curiously cut. On the south-east of this church are a great many musicians admirably cut, with much pleasantness and gaiety in their countenances, accompanied with their various instruments. Also nuns with their veils; some of whom richly dressed. The south window is very much admired for its height and curious workmanship: Niches are on each side and above it, where have been statues of our Saviour and the apostles. Besides, there are many other figures on the east, or on the west side of this window: Monks curiously cut, with their beards, cowls and beads: A cripple on the back of a blind man: Several animals cut very nicely, as boars, greyhounds, lions, monkies and others. There are about 68 niches in whole standing; the statues were only demolished about the 1649.

So far, with respect to the outside of the church. Within, on the north side of the cross are beautiful pillars, and the sculpture as fresh as if it had been newly cut. On the west side is a statue of St Peter with a book open, his right hand on it, and two keys hanging on the left. On the south side of this statue, is that of St Paul with a sword. In the middle of the cross stood the steeple, a piece of noble architecture,



chitecture, a quarter of it yet standing, but the spire gone. The roof of the south side of the cross is still standing, where is a beautiful stair-case, much admired by strangers, the roof of it winding like a snail cap. There was within the church a vast number of fonts curiously carved, and where were altars dedicated to various saints. In the portion of the church where worship is at present performed, are two rows of pillars of excellent workmanship, especially that to the south-east, which for the fineness of it, looks like Flanders' lace.

With regard lastly, to what was in part, or altogether, separated from the body of the church, there was a cloyster on the north side, a part of the walls of which is still remaining; and where may be observed pleasant walks and seats, with a great deal of fine flowers nicely cut as lilies, &c. also ferns, grapes, house-leeks, escalops, fir-cones, &c. The door at the north entry of the church is curiously embossed, and the foliage here, and in several places of the church, very beautiful. There were also here a vast many fine buildings within the convent, for the residence and service of the abbot and monks, with gardens and other conveniences; all this inclosed within an high wall, about a mile in circuit. Besides the high church, there has been a large fine chapel, where the manse now is, and another house adjoining to it, where the foundations of the pillars are still to be seen. On the north side of this house, there has been a curious oratory or private chapel, the foundations of which have been discovered this year, and a large cistern of one stone, with a leaden pipe conveying the water to it.

*Camps, &c.*—A little to the south of Melrose are the three *Eildon* hills. The base of them may be in compass



6 or 7 miles; the height of two of them to the north about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile. On the top of the north-east hill are plain vestiges of a Roman camp well fortified, with two fosses and mounds of earth, more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile in circuit, with a large plain near the top of the hill, on which may be seen the *prætorium*, or the general's quarter, surrounded with many huts. It has all the properties of a well chosen camp, according to the rules of Vegetius. There is a large prospect from it of all the country; it has many springs of good water near it; the sides of the hill have been covered with wood, and the camp is of that extent, that neither man, beast nor baggage could be straitened for room. On the north side of the middle hill, Mr Milne seems to place a second camp, from which he says is a large ditch for 2 miles to the west, reaching to another camp on the top of Caldshiellhill. This camp (probably he means, that on the north side of the middle hill) has been strongly fortified with a double trench, and the circumvallations of it continued for a good way. This camp, with that called Castlefield, makes almost a triangle with the large camp on Eildon hills.

To the S. W. of these hills there has been a beautiful military road, raised in some places high above the ground, and of a considerable breadth, with military stations in some places upon it. In some parts it is carried through lakes and marshes, and has had a communication with the camp at Caldshiels, and likewise with another camp on the north side of the Tweed called the Rink.

On the head of the hill, on the side of which the village of Gattonside is founded, north of the Tweed, there has been a large camp. It has a wall around it of stone, about half a mile in compass. About half a mile from this camp to the east, on the top of the hill, opposite to Newstead, there



there has been a large camp with a deep ditch. It seems to have been about 3 quarters of a mile in circumference, and is called the Chester-know or Knoll.

Mr Milne describes other camps, several of them large, and gives an account of other antiquities and particulars referring to this parish.

NUM.



## NUMBER VII.

## PARISH OF INNERKIP,

(COUNTY OF RENFREW, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF PAISLEY.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BROWN.*

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M U V

*Name, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE situation seems to have given rise to the name, which is partly Gaelic; *Inner*, by some called *Inver*, implies the 'mouth of a river,' which agrees with the situation of the church and village; immediately below which, the small river *Kip* empties itself into the sea, or frith of Clyde. This parish is bounded by the frith of Clyde upon the W. and N. In length, from E. to W. along the shore, it is 7 miles in a straight line; but considerably longer, if all the little bays were followed; in breadth, 6 miles. It was much more extensive two centuries ago, comprehending then the two parishes of Greenock.

*Climate and Surface.*—From situation, the climate is rather wet, and rains are frequent and heavy; yet very healthy,



healthy, by means of the sea-air, which seldom allows any fogs or noxious mists to settle down, nor frost and snow to continue long. By this the summer heat is also moderated to a very desirable equality. The inhabitants are seldom visited by epidemical distempers, or local diseases. The rheumatism is indeed complained of, but not generally. Great numbers of children are sometimes swept off by the small pox. An unconquerable aversion to inoculation, exposes them at all ages to this disease, which is very fatal, when of a bad kind. Though there is no instance of remarkable longevity, yet there are many of considerable age; it is not uncommon to see men and women of 80 employed daily in their usual labour; and one woman is considerably above 90. The surface of the country, in general, is no less pleasing to the eye, than the situation is conducive to health. From the shore to the S. E. is a gradual and irregular ascent, beautifully varied with plains, gentle declivities, and eminences clothed with furze and broom, intersected by small rivers or burns, which are sometimes lost in deep glens, shaded with wood, and sometimes water rich and fertile meadows. On one side, surrounded with lofty mountains, covered with heath; on the other, washed by the frith of Clyde, constantly crowded with the foreign and coasting trade to and from Greenock; the towering summits of the Isle of Arran terminate the view to the S. W.

*Soil and Agriculture.*—The soil upon the shore is light, sandy, and of quick vegetation; farther in the country, it is a little wetter, and more inclined to a red gravel. The moor-grounds are covered with heath, and in some places afford moss of a considerable depth. More than one half of the parish is moor, and a great part of that a common undivided; a considerable part natural meadow, and the remainder



remainder arable. But as no measurement has been taken, how many acres are of each, cannot be conjectured. From the appearance of the country, it may be supposed that more land was in tillage 50 years ago than at present. Most part of the arable, and a great part of the low pasture lands, are inclosed with good stone fences, which the proprietor erects, on the tenant paying  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for out-laid money, and on condition he leaves them fencible at the end of his lease. Agriculture here has made but slow progress, and still the improvement of land is little attended to; perhaps for the following reasons: The soil, which is light, will hardly bear the labour requisite to clear it of weeds; and when put into a state, from which a good crop might be expected, it is easily hurt by the severity of dry or wet weather. Allowing the crop to answer the expectation of the farmer, the price it brings, is seldom a sufficient compensation for expense and labour; this is owing to the immense quantity of grain imported into Greenock, and from which port it is circulated through the country, to a great distance, whereby it is kept lower than in most inland places. Another thing which impedes agriculture, is, the farmer pays his rent much easier from his dairy than his plough; and for his encouragement, he finds a ready market, and good prices for all kinds of produce, grain excepted, in the town above mentioned. In order to favour this mode of farming, great part of the land is thrown into grass; so much only is ploughed, as is barely sufficient to support the cattle through winter. The method of working land in general, is to rest it 3 or 4 years, and plough it 2; seldom doing any more to it, than what their cattle and manure do. The dung of the cattle is used in raising barley and potatoes, which are excellent in quality, and frequently considerable in quantity; besides those consumed



consumed in the parish, many bolls are carried to Greenock.

From this method of farming, there are some exceptions among the tenants; and especially 2 or 3 heritors, who do the lands they hold in their own hands great justice, and are well repaid. Excepting what is done by these, agriculture is nearly in the same state it was 50 years ago. During many years, the farms have been increasing in extent, as well as in value, consequently at present much diminished in number. The number of acres in crop cannot well be known. If the season be favourable for ploughing, the price of cattle, and the produce of the dairy low, more is thrown into crop than when these are otherwise. Crops, in general, are but very moderate, as may readily be expected, from the manner of improving, and consist chiefly of oats and a little barley. Rye grass has been introduced, but is not much followed after. The old Scots plough, drawn by 3 horses, is mostly in use. Ploughing commonly begins about the middle of March, sowing the first week of April, reaping the end of September, or beginning of October. The farmer generally holds his own plough, where there are no children, or not grown up. As the tillage is not great, the produce is not nearly sufficient for the inhabitants. Though there are few farms, if any, in the parish, that can be called store farms, yet there are 50 or 60 scores of sheep; almost one half of these are allowed to range in the common moor, during summer, and come down to the low grounds in winter. If the price of lands be a proof of value, here they fall nothing below those systematically improved; when sold, which is seldom, they bring from 40 to 50 years purchase. The valued rent of the parish is L. 3177 Scots.\*

VOL. IX.

N

Population.—

\* *Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The expense of country labour is at present almost double of what it was 30 years ago. This is not so much



*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 1590. It may be supposed, from several circumstances, that the number of inhabitants in this parish has rather decreased. In almost every part of the parish ruins of dwelling houses are seen; and the small farms which belonged to these, annexed to others. The villages, as might have been expected, have not much increased; also most of the young men, having an inclination for a seafaring life, leave this place, and settle where they are employed. From these reasons, it is to be conceived, that the inhabitants are not so numerous as formerly. From an account taken in the 1792, the number appears to be of families 344; of souls 1280. Of these, almost in each of the villages, Daff and Gourock, is 1-3d; the other third in the country part. Males and females are nearly equal.

There

much owing to the increase of labour, as to the decrease of hands. Ever since small farms and cottages became parts of larger possessions, the number of hands, who work for hire, has diminished. The effect of this was considerably felt formerly, but of late more sensibly. The country is now so much drained of its useful labourers, by the different manufactures, that the farmer can hardly either find servants, or afford the high wages. Any advance he has upon the different productions of his farm, with difficulty balances the rise of rents. A ploughman's wage is from L. 9 to L. 12, with victuals; a woman's, from L. 3 to L. 4; a mason's, 2 s. a carpenter or house-wright, 1 s. 8 d. a-day; a day-labourer, 1 s. 6 d. There are some both higher and lower than these. The necessaries of life, that cannot be brought from a considerable distance, have greatly increased, and are still increasing, meal excepted. Oat-meal of this country produce, rates commonly from 11 d. to 1 s. 2 d. but seldom above 1 s. the peck; beef, from 6 s. to 6 s. 6 d. the stone; mutton, from 5 d. to 6½ d. the pound; fresh butter, from 10 d. to 1 s. the pound; salt butter, 13 s. the stone; potatoes, at a medium, 6 d. a peck. White fish, haddocks, and cod, new taken, are sold at 1 d. the pound; salmon, 4½ d.



|                                  |     |       |
|----------------------------------|-----|-------|
| There are under 10 years of age, | -   | 301   |
| Between 10 and 30,               | — — | 326   |
| — 30 and 50,                     | — — | 316   |
| — 50 and 70,                     | — — | 287   |
| — 70 and 90,                     | — — | 49    |
| Above 90,                        | — — | 1     |
|                                  |     | <hr/> |
|                                  |     | 1280  |

Among these, there are in the parish, of rope-spinners, and employed about that work,

|                              |       |    |
|------------------------------|-------|----|
| Weavers,                     | — —   | 33 |
| Shoemakers,                  | — — — | 9  |
| Wrights,                     | — — — | 7  |
| Tailors,                     | — — — | 5  |
| Masons,                      | — — — | 4  |
| Employed in herring-fishing, | —     | 48 |
| — in white-fishing,          | — —   | 14 |

Besides these, several go out occasionally to fish whittings, haddocks, cod, &c. who are at other times otherwise employed.—Births taken, at an average of 8 years, 27; deaths 23; marriages 9.—There is in the parish at present 1 surgeon.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is 78 bolls of meal, and L. 350 Scots of money. The glebe consists of 4 acres, all arable. Neither stipend nor glebe have been augmented these 120 years. There are few Seceders in the parish. Besides the parish-church, there is a place of worship in the village of Gourock. Mr Scott, the late minister, saw the inconveniency of the inhabitants in that part of the parish, and with much perseverance got a house built by subscription, which still remains under the direction



tion of the parish minister. Sir Michael Stewart, Baronet, of Blackhall, is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is 100 merks Scots; and the whole amount of his income, as teacher and session-clerk, is about L. 16 a-year; for which he teaches English at 1 s. 4 d.; writing at 1 s. 6 d.; arithmetic at 1 s. 8 d. a-quarter. This, with his other perquisites and salary, amounts only to L. 16, and with this he maintains a numerous family. Besides the parochial school, there is one in the village of Gourock, where the teacher is supported by the wages, without either salary or house. Neither of these schools are so well attended as might be expected, from the number of inhabitants, and the easy terms on which education is got.—The poor's funds are managed by the session, and consist of L. 400 stock, besides the weekly collections. Out of this, a little is allowed to about 34, who are on the roll, consisting of those unable to work, and of those incapable to earn what is sufficient to maintain themselves and families. They receive from 2 s. to 4 s. 6 d. each a-month. Besides this, twice a year the sum of L. 8 or L. 9 is divided among the most needy, some of whom are not on the list. The poor live in their own houses, and none are allowed to beg; but there are great numbers from other places.

*Roads.*—The public road, which runs through this parish, and leads to Irvine and Ayr, is kept in good repair by the statute labour. John Shaw Stewart, Esq; of Greenock, some years ago altered the line of that part which leads from this to Greenock, consisting of above 5 miles, and generously executed the whole at his own expense, which is of great utility to the county. It is probable, that this, with the cross roads, which are very bad, will now be much better, by levying, at a certain rate, and applying the money raised under the direction of trustees, agreeable  
to



to an act of Parliament obtained this year for that purpose. There are no tolls in the parish, and only one ferry across the frith of Clyde, which is about 5 miles broad, to Du-noon in Argyleshire.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 5 heritors, Sir Michael Stewart, Baronet, of Blackhall, John Shaw Stewart, Esq; of Greenock, Duncan Darroch, Esq; of Gourock, John Wallace, Esq; of Kelly, and Duncan Campbell, Esq; of Langhouse. Besides these, there are a great number of small feuars;—two heritors only reside. Sir Michael Stewart, whose residence is Ardgowan, is proprietor of the greatest part of the parish. The house is delightfully situated upon the shore, about a mile from the church, and commands a most extensive prospect of the frith of Clyde. It is large, and built at different times, consisting of an old square tower of great antiquity, and a modern dwelling-house, surrounded with a considerable quantity of plantations. The lands round it are well inclosed, and judiciously improved. The other residing heritor is Duncan Darroch, Esq; whose residence is Gourock, pleasantly situated on a large bay.—There are two villages, each of which contain about 1-3d of the inhabitants, as mentioned formerly. Daff, in the barony of Innerkip, Sir Michael Stewart's estate, stands near the church, is distant from Greenock  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and from the village of Largs, 9 miles on the other side. The other village is Gourock, on Mr Darroch's estate. From situation, this place is very convenient for trade, having sufficient depth of water for vessels of any burden, and good shelter. In this village, a rope-work commenced in the 1777, and succeeds well. It employs at present 49 people, and manufactures about 165 tons of hemp yearly. The walk is 200 fathoms long, one half of which is covered with a slate roof. On the outside



outside is a walk for white-work of the same length.—In the neighbourhood of this village an attempt was made for coal some years ago, which, if successful, would have been of great advantage to the country; but meeting with copper ore, the undertakers were diverted from their first object. This new discovery promised well both in richness and quantity; but being wrought by a Company, who were chiefly engaged in England, it was so managed as to defeat the expectation.—On Sir Michael's estate are 3 mills, 2 for grinding corn, and 1 for dressing flax. On Mr Darroch's estate are 2, 1 for extracting oil from lintseed, and the other for washing materials belonging to the ropework Company.—There are 18 public-houses, greatest part of which might easily be wanted; however, it does not appear that they are very hurtful to the morals of the people. Only 2 of these have a licence for all kinds of liquors.—During the summer months, this place is much frequented for sea-bathing; a number of houses are kept mostly furnished on purpose, and hired by families from Glasgow, and other inland places, which is of great advantage to the inhabitants.—The fish caught here, are the same with those round the west coast of Scotland; and there are no sea-fowls, nor land-animals, so remarkable as to deserve particular description.—The inhabitants in general are in easy circumstances, sober and industrious.



NUMBER VIII.

P A R I S H O F B I R S E,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
KINCARDINE O'NIEL.)

By the Rev. Mr JOSEPH SMITH.

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*Name, &c.*

THE ancient name of the parish is said to have been *Press*, meaning in Gaelic a "wood or thicket." Great part of the parish was, and is still covered with natural wood, such as fir, birch, ash, alder, mountain ash, gean or black cherry, holly, hazel, aspen, and some oaks, &c. Besides the natural wood, there are some thousand acres inclosed and planted with various forest trees, fir, birch, ash, elm, beech, plane, horse chesnut, spruce, larix, and willows of all sorts, &c. &c. all are in a thriving state, and many of them already fit for use. The parish then takes its name from this circumstance, namely, its having always produced a deal of fine wood. The name has been greatly corrupted. It seems to have been written *Preiss*, then *Breiss*, and this is inscribed on the communion cups about a century ago. In some writings it is called *Brass*, and  
now



now it obtains the name of *Birse*. The names of the greater part of the places in the parish are evidently derived from the Gaelic language; for example, *Presbeg*, now *Birsebeg*, “the little bush;” *Presmore*, now *Birsemore*, “the large bush.”

*Extent and Situation.*—Its extent from E. to W. is about 10 measured miles, and, including that range of the Grampian hills belonging to the parish; its extent from the river Dee on the N. towards the S. is in many places nothing less. It is indeed narrower towards the east end of the parish, but by all who are thoroughly acquainted with its extent, it is deemed equal to a figure of 10 miles square. The parish church is distant from Aberdeen, the nearest post town, about 27 measured miles. It is the most southerly parish in the county of Aberdeen. With respect to the inhabited part of the parish, it may be divided into three large straths or districts. The largest of which, in the south-east end of the parish is called *Feughside*, (or vulgarly the *Eastside* of the hill, meaning *Corse Dardar*.) It has the Feugh running through it. It is about 3 miles long and 2 broad. The house of Finzean is in the north west corner of it, and being surrounded on the north and west by hills and woods, is remarkably sheltered and pleasantly situated. Its name *Finzean*, is said by those conversant in the Gaelic language to be descriptive of its pleasant situation. The heritor has always resided. Directly west on the banks of the Feugh, and among the Grampian hills is situated the *Forest* or *Glen Birse*, partly inclosed and cultivated, and partly in common for pasture. The middle strath or district is called the *Water*, vulgarly the burn of *Ghattie*, as that burn runs through it. It is about 4 miles long and 1 broad. On the south of the burn is Midstrath, and on the north Ballogie, formerly named Tillysnaught.

I

Both



Both are delightfully situated, being encircled with hills and woods. The proprietor of Midstrath has not for some time resided, consequently the mansion house is almost a ruin. The house of Ballogie is fitted up with taste by the proprietor, who resides. In its neighbourhood, and on the public road that passes through the parish from E. to W. is the neat little village of Marywell, where they are improving the fields, and building neat small houses under the auspices of Mr Innes the proprietor. Directly west on the banks of the Chattie is Glenchatt, partly cultivated, and partly set apart for pasture. The most northerly district is along the south side of the Dee; through it runs the burn of Birse. In it is Balfour, where a small heritor resides. The church and manse are there situated, very inconveniently for the greater part of the parish. This district is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  broad. It is vulgarly called the *Six Towns*. The whole parish is divided into what was called 24 towns; and in the opinion of some skilful men, each town may contain from 80 to 85 acres arable. Upon this supposition, there may be reckoned about 2000 acres and upwards under cultivation, exclusive of the Forest, where there are now 120 acres and odds under cultivation. The number of acres under wood in the parish may be equal to the number under cultivation. No trees, however, grow in what is called the Forest; yet there is reason to believe, that it once produced a great deal of various sorts, particularly holly. In some old houses in the parish, some wood that grew in the Forest still remains; tradition says, that the remainder of the wood growing in the Forest was consumed by fire. The nearest farm to the Forest is called Woodend. To the parish belong in property, or at least by servitude, four forests or glens; in all of which, probably wood has been produced, namely Glen-Birse, Glen-Aven, Glenchatt, and Glensleudrum.



*Surface, Soil and Climate.*—The surface is uneven, hilly, and even rocky and mountainous. It is beautifully diversified with hill and dale, wood and water. Many spots in it are most delightful; they afford the pleasures of a rural life in abundance, and such as can relish these pleasures must be highly delighted with the variegated appearance of the country. The soil is light and sharp, sandy in some places, in others a dark brown loam. It is mostly on a hard and gravelly bottom. In a few places the bottom is inclined to clay; when justice is done to the soil, the produce will sufficiently reward the husbandman for his labour and expense. The air is pure, and the climate temperate and healthy. On the banks of the Dee snow lies not so long as in some other places. There are no diseases peculiar to the parish. Many of the inhabitants arrive at a good old age, as the population-table will evince. Some families seem to have their blood tainted with the scrofula; some complain of rheumatism (more frequently indeed than their forefathers), and a few young people die of consumptions. In general, however, they are a blooming healthy race. Inoculation is practised a little with success; the sensible part of the people do not seem averse from it.

*Hills and Mosses, Birds and Game, &c.*—As there are 3 straths or districts of which the parish is made up, so there are 3 large ridges of hills taking their rise towards the river Dee, and running in a S. W. direction till they terminate in the heart of the Grampians, of which indeed they are a part. Peter-hill, the White-hill, and Mulbrax, are in the south ridge.—The Ords, the Shooting-greens, (over which the great road leading from the river Dee to the Cairn o' Mount passes); Tomcairn, Corse-Dardar, (over which the public road from E. to W. passes); hills of Midstrath and Arntilly, Lamachip, and Brackenstaik, are in the middle



the ridge. The most northerly ridge takes its rise at Inchbair, and terminates at Cairnferg. On the W. of the parish are the hills of Birsemore, Deuchry, and Mount Ganiach, which is the highest hill in the parish. Indeed, Mount Battach, or the north side of it, is claimed as belonging to Birse. Its height by Garden's map of the county of Kincardine, is 1150 yards above the level of the sea. Mount Battach is considerably higher than Mount Ganiach, which is conjectured to be about 1000 above the level of the sea. Peter-hill and Mulbrax are next in height to Mount Ganiach, and may be rated at 900 yards. Cairnferg, which is a remarkably conspicuous conical mount, may be about 700 yards. The rest of the hills fall gradually lower in their respective ridges northward and eastward, till the ridge enters the parish of Strachan, or terminates at the river Dee. There has been no map or distinct measurement of this parish. The height of the hills cannot therefore be exactly specified. In Garden's map, the situation of part of this parish may be seen. All the hills are rocky and covered with heath, interspersed with pasture, fraths and green vallies. There on the Grampian hills our frugal swains do literally feed their flocks. The hills produce a variety of herbs, the names and virtues of which we cannot pretend to specify; also many sorts of berries, the blue berry, cranberry, cloudberry; in rocky places, the bramble, rasp, and strawberry of a small size. The hills also abound with moss; it is indeed inexhaustible, but of difficult access. In the mosses situated in the lower grounds of the parish are dug up the remains of old oaks, which appear to have been of a prodigious size. In the hill mosses the fir is found, commonly the root, and sometimes the whole tree, as fresh as if fallen yesterday, although it has been buried hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. The oaks are not quite so fresh. The hills also abound



bound with game of all sorts, and upon the return of every shooting season, the keen and active sportsman frequents our parish, to enjoy upon our hills and moors his favourite amusement\*.

*Springs and Rivers, &c.*—No spring or well in the parish has acquired fame from its medicinal virtue, yet some mineral springs are to be found, and have been resorted to by several of the inhabitants on account of scrofulous, gravelly or stomachic complaints. On Mount Ganiach there is a well called St Com's well, in honour, probably of the celebrated saint of Icolmkil; but concerning this well there is no tradition. The parish abounds with fine springs  
or

\* In a country so hilly, rocky, and woody as this parish, there is such a variety of the feathered tribe, as renders it difficult to know the proper names of them all. Among the resident birds, may be reckoned eagles or eorns, (now rare), hawks of all kinds, gledes, owls of all kinds, moor-fowl, blackcock, ptarmigan, partridge, heron, wild-duck, teal, shell-drake, magpie, raven, crow, jackdaw, the wood-pigeon, the fieldfare, skylark, wood-lark, the bountain, goldfinch, the chaffinch, the wren and golden-crested ditto, the sparrow, redbreast, woodpeckers of the larger and lesser kinds, thrush, starling, snipe, ouzel, bat, tomtit, common and green linnet, yellow-hammer, blackbird, and the wader, a bird frequenting running water, and many others. The migratory birds are, the woodcock, sea-magpie, swallow, martin, bullfinch, cuckoo, wagtail, stone-chatter, sand-lark, red-shank, land-rail, dotterel, king's-fisher, grey and green plover, &c. The bullfinch, wood-lark, golden-crested wren, and some say the sparrow, have only appeared within these 20 years. In winter, the snow-birds resort in flocks to the cultivated parts of the parish, and disappear as the year revolves, and the weather turns mild.—The quadrupeds, besides domestic animals, are the red and roe deer. These abound in our plantations, where the hind calves, and brings up her young. These are troublesome to the husbandmen. Besides the common hare, we have the mountain-hare, in winter, white as snow; also the fox, badger, otter, pole-cat, martin, weasel, and ermine. The wolf, when in Scotland, had visited our mountains; for, towards the west end of the parish, there is a place in the Grampians, still known by the name of the Wolf-Holm.



or wells; and besides, the streams and rivulets issuing from them, it is watered by the Dee on the north; the Aven towards the south; the Feugh, the water or burn of Chattie, and the burn of Birse, running through the three straths of the parish. The Dee abounds with excellent salmon, grilse, sea trout, sterlings (here called dowbrecks,) trout and parr, with some pikes and fresh water flounders with finnick. Dee is said to produce pearl shells, but pearls have rarely been found. Feugh is the most considerable river. It also produces salmon, and most of the sorts of fish above mentioned. It would abound with them all, were they not stopped by a considerable water-fall near its influx into the Dee, opposite to Banchoryterran, and which prevents the salmon from getting up unless when the river is flooded. The Feugh receives Aven before it leaves the parish of Birse and the Dee, when running through the parish of Strachar; it is a very rapid river, and often overflows its banks. The Aven, the Chattie and the burn of Birse, abound with trout of all sorts, also eels. No rivers or rivulets afford the angler better sport than these\*.

*Agriculture and Produce.*—It must be confessed that agriculture in this country is rather in an imperfect state; many of the people continue rivetted in their prejudices against the modern improvements in husbandry. All, however,

\* Towards the spawning season, salmon grilse, and sea-trout, come up in great numbers into the rivers and burns, and even into the branches of them. The spawning season is thought to be from the middle of October to the end of November; during which time fishing, which, by the by, is always with the rod or spear, is prohibited. We have, however, a species of salmon, called by the country people candavaigs, that frequently do not spawn before the month of April or May; these, therefore, are in perfection when the others are not. They are grosser for their length than the common salmon, and often (of a large size) upwards of 20 or 30 pound weight. They are said to come from the coasts of Norway.



ever, must allow, that these improvements have commenced in this parish, and that some of the tenants have done more in the way of farming to purpose, than many of their neighbours in several places around. Several have upon their possession a small limekiln; they purchase the limestone at some of the quarries in the parish, and burn it with peat, mixed often with wood, or even with some coals from Aberdeen. The lime they lay upon the grounds has much effect. Some however aver, that to lime their ground is to no purpose, as, say they, it has no effect, because the ground is on limestone: Whether this be a just remark, or only an excuse for indolence, is left to the skilful farmer to decide; where a sufficient quantity of lime is allowed, it cannot fail to ensure a crop. Seventy bolls of Midstrath lime flacked, and each boll containing three corn firlots, will be sufficient for the worst outfield in the parish. When bought at Midstrath, each boll costs 1s. 4d. which indeed is very high; but even at that price little can be burned for sale, as fuel is at so great a distance. The limestone is inexhaustible, and the lime of an excellent quality. Some are cleaning their ground, by fallowing, by a little green cropping, and by laying it down with artificial grasses, others are going on in taking 2 or 3 successive crops of oats, and 1 of bear, (when they give the ground a little dung), without allowing some portions of their ground any rest in a century. Indeed when the poorer sort of it is completely exhausted by successive crops, they must let it rest; but for years it is almost useless. Some are going on with spirit, inclosing and clearing their ground of stones. Others are throwing every impediment in the way of the improver, by trampling down the fences, and by not only neglecting to remove the stones from their fields, but even by alleging, that the stones are beneficial to the soil, and tend to nourish the crop. In the east end of the parish, where liming is chiefly

ly



ly attended to, it is thought a capital blunder is committed; for the following is the plan they have adopted. They lime, and often at the same time, dung part of the worst of their farm (outfield). They take two successive crops of oats, the effect of the lime for the first crop is not very perceptible, the second crop is excellent. Bear is sown for the third crop, and he who did not lay on the dung with the lime, now does it. This crop amply repays the expense. It is now humbly submitted to the skilful improver, whether they ought not with this crop to sow it out with artificial grasses; if they did so, they would keep the ground in heart; but instead of doing so, the greater part take other two crops of oats. These they have very good. Still by this plan, however, and by taking so many crops of oats, they exhaust the ground to a great degree. Any part of their infield which they have cleaned, and had under green crop, they generally lay down with grasses, and to encourage them to this laudable practice, Mr Farquharson of Finzean, presented several of his tenants with some quantity of grass seeds last spring; the like had been done by Mr Gerard of Midstrath, in a former year. The distinction of outfield and infield ought as much as possible to be laid aside, and equal justice should be done to the whole farm, be it small or great. Winter herding ought to be practised; but to this, they who are least industrious, and have least to care for, are, as may be expected, most averse. The number of acres under cultivation cannot be easily ascertained, they are already rated at about 2200, more might be improved, and certainly have been arable on the hills and moors. Indeed, there might be an addition of several hundred acres by trenching the baulks or waste slips of ground that in many farms do still abound. Of the above number of acres, we may reckon one-sixth part in lee or natural grass. A small proportion is annually in



in green crop, not above 30 acres, with the like number sown out with artificial grasses, crop 1791, independent of the farms in the particular possession of the principal residing heritors, Finzean and Ballogie. These farms are considerably improved, and have been for some years in grass. The present proprietors, who lately came to the possession of their respective estates, are now beginning to put them under crop; and Mr Innes of Ballogie takes the lead in improvements in the parish. The number of acres mentioned above, in green crop, and laid out in grass, is exclusive of the heritors farms, which were only begun to be cropped last year. It is also but doing the tenants justice, to mention, that in crop 1792 they had doubled the number of acres under green crop, &c. This circumstance marks our small, but rapid progress of improvement. Oats and bear are the principal part of each crop. Some pease, and a little rye, are also produced. Potatoes are not raised for sale, being at a distance from any market town; but abundance of them are raised for the use of the inhabitants, and the soil produces them remarkably good. The grain is of an excellent quality, the oats yielding more meal, and the bear more spirit, than grain produced from a deeper soil. In the parish a little flax is raised; and as the soil seems to agree with it, a greater quantity will now be raised than formerly, when no lint mill was in all this country. The Earl of Aboyne has remedied this inconvenience by erecting one in 1791, in the parish of Coul, a few miles to the north of this parish. It will greatly accommodate the country, and has constant employment already. The parish can well supply itself with provisions; no wheat indeed is produced, but the people here ordinarily use cakes of oat-meal. The lands are rarely let by the acre, a *cumulus* rent is taken for the whole farm, large or small. Some of the land is let at the rate of 15 s. or 16 s.



the acre ; in general 10 s. and indeed some of it dear enough in its present state of 2 s. but capable of improvement. The highest rent paid by one tenant is about L. 60. The current rents of the possessions are from L. 10 to L. 20, and some as low as from L. 3 to L. 5\*.

Besides grain, the parish produces a deal of wood which it exports. Numbers of black cattle and sheep are annually sold, and taken from our hills and put upon rich pasture ; they turn out to great account. Black cattle fetch from L. 2 to L. 7. Sheep are worth from L. 4 to L. 12 the score, some few sell at 14 s. each. Horses are worth from L. 5 to L. 15 ; and some few from L. 15 to L. 25. Some of them also are reared in the parish. It is famous also for producing honey of great richness and flavour. In a favourable year a good deal is exported. Two men in the Six Towns exported 100 pints each, in summer and autumn 1791. The pint consists of 5 lbs. Amsterdam, and sells from 2 s. 6 d. to 4 s. 2 d. A little butter and cheese is also exported. In several gardens in the parish, there is a good number of fruit trees bearing fruit. The crop of apples on one tree in the garden of Midstrath sold once for a guinea. The garden of Finzean being fenced both by

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nature

\* All the tenants plough their grounds, some with horses, some with oxen, and some with horses and black-cattle united, and all harnessed after the manner of horses. By many the old Scots plough is still used, and answers best in rough stony ground. The better sort, and the active tenant, who has improved his farm a little, have procured ploughs of the new form. Seed time begins about the middle of March, harvest about the first of September. Indeed, for several years past, both have been much later, owing to the cold and uncommonly rainy seasons. On the estate of Ballogie, Mr Forbes, the late proprietor, found, and used as a manure, a kind of marl, with some effect. The death of the heritor prevented the working of it for any time. The present proprietor intends to try it again. There is of it, of a reddish, bluish, and whitish colour. How it will turn out, time only will evince.



nature and art from every noxious blast, produces apples in size and flavour equal perhaps to any in Scotland. Wool, and some coarse woollen cloth manufactured in the parish, is also exported. Real white wool can hardly be obtained, since the introduction of the black-faced sheep, where wool is neither so fine nor so white as that of the small breed, which formerly did more abound. This article shall be concluded by mentioning, that the Kincardine and Alford farming society have offered premiums for the best fleece of wool; also for an acre of outfield, upon which 70 bolls slacked lime is laid; also for an acre under green crop, and laid out next year with artificial grasses, all within their district; they have judged well in offering small premiums for one acre, as this will tend to excite emulation among the tenants, even of the least possessions. The Society “deserve well of their country\*.”

*Property*

\* *Prices of Labour, Wages, &c.*—The price of labour is greatly increased, from what it was. There are living in the parish two old men, (tenants), who, in their younger days, were servants, the one at 20 s. and the other at 30 s. a-year. For young men to do the same work now, there must be paid from L. 4 to L. 5, and from L. 5 to L. 6, with their entertainment, in which they are most extravagant, often requiring better entertainment than the tenant can afford to himself. Women servants have from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s.; and a few house servants, L. 3; herd-boys, from 12 s. to 20 s. for the summer half-year. When the children of the tenant grow up, he employs them. This is his first relief. Before, he was much at the mercy of merciless menials. A day-labourer, of whom we have few, gets 6 d. and victuals, at some work he requires more; for in harvest, he gets 1 s. and upwards; a wright, 8 d. and lately 10 d.; a tailor, 6 d. and victuals; a mason, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 9 d. without victuals. The blacksmith works by the piece, and is very extravagant in his demand. The weaver asks  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. or 3 d. for what was formerly done at 1 d. the ell. Shoes are at an exorbitant rate, triple of what they were 30 years ago. The poorer sort have much ado to purchase that necessary article.—The women of the parish are chiefly employed in the knitting of stockings, or spinning of lint-yarn. By the former they earn, when working



*Property and Valued Rent.*—The landed property of the parish (which was church-lands) has undergone several changes. Gordon of Cluny was once proprietor of upwards of two-thirds of the parish. From time to time he sold a town, or a part of a town, as a purchaser offered, and as he had occasion for money. This gave rise to a great number of proprietors in Birse, till at last the parish came

ing on their own account, 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. the week, by the latter, a little more. If working on account of a master, they often earn less. At three stations in the parish, wool is given out, and the stockings taken in, monthly, by the Aberdeen manufacturers, or their servants. At several stations, lint is given out, and the yarn received, by one appointed by the manufacturer. In all sorts of weather, the hosier keeps his day punctually, and the poor are sure of what they have earned. By the industry of the wife and his own labour, if in health, the cottager is enabled to bring up his family; and many active women, either by the above employments, or by making, during the summer, a piece of coarse woollen cloth for sale, greatly aid their husbands in making up the rent of their possessions. The establishment of these factories, as the country people call them, have been a great blessing to the country in general.

*Price of Provisions.*—This is much regulated by the Aberdeen market. When meal, upon which the people chiefly subsist, is low priced there, it soon becomes so here. Grain, in general, is double the price of what it was 30 years ago. During the years 1790 and 1791, meal sold from 13 s. to 17 s. the boll; (9 stone Amsterdam is often given for the boll); bear, from 15 s. to 19 s. the boll. Beef and mutton are sometimes purchased from the Aberdeen market, and sometimes procured by feeding at home. After counting every cost, we have meat cheaper, than when brought from Aberdeen. Butter sells from 6 d. to 8 d. the pound; cheese, from 5 s. to 6 s. the stone. The pound here consists of 28 ounces Avoirdupois. Eggs, formerly at 1 d. the 14, now sell at 1½ d. and 2 d. the 12; a chicken, 2 d. and a hen from 6 d. to 8 d.; salmon, in its season, about 3 d. the pound; any other sort of fish is scarce and dear. The necessities of life are at least one half dearer, and articles of luxury more than double, within these 40 years. This is a circumstance greatly against such as have stationary livings. It must be confessed, that what were articles of luxury in our hardy forefathers day, are now become articles that are reckoned necessities, as tea.



came into the hands of a few, so that there are now only six heritors and the church-session. Two of the heritors and the church-session have a very small property. Land has sold from 25 to 30 years purchase. The wood upon the estate often enhances its value. The valued rent is *in cumulo* L. 3139 : 8 : 4 Scots. Two of the principal heritors, and one small heritor reside.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 1126. At the end of the year 1791, by an accurate survey, the population was as follows:

|                         |      |      |                               |     |   |    |
|-------------------------|------|------|-------------------------------|-----|---|----|
| Individuals,            | -    | 1253 | Aged 96,                      | -   | - | 1  |
| Males,                  | -    | 607  | At the reputed age of         |     |   |    |
| Females,                | -    | 646  | 100 and odds,                 | -   |   | 2  |
| Widowers,               | -    | 21   |                               |     |   |    |
| Widows,                 | -    | 59   | No accurate register of bap-  |     |   |    |
| Unmarried m. above 20,  | 121  |      | tisms has been kept since     |     |   |    |
| — w. above 18,          | 167  |      | the commencement of the       |     |   |    |
| — m. above 50,          | 5    |      | odious baptism-tax. From      |     |   |    |
| — w. above 50,          | 13   |      | the incumbent's private       |     |   |    |
| Born out of the parish, | 285  |      | list for 3 years after Sept.  |     |   |    |
| Of the Establ. Church,  | 1181 |      | 2. 1789, when he was or-      |     |   |    |
| — Roman Catholics,      | 60   |      | dained minister here, there   |     |   |    |
| — Episcopalians,        | 12   |      | were 120 baptisms. Mar-       |     |   |    |
| Under 10 years of age,  | 324  |      | riages from said list 8 year- |     |   |    |
| From 10 to 20,          | -    | 241  | ly. No burial register was    |     |   |    |
| — 20 to 30,             | -    | 192  | ever kept. It is conjectu-    |     |   |    |
| — 30 to 40,             | -    | 141  | red there may be 24 or 27     |     |   |    |
| — 40 to 50,             | -    | 140  | yearly.                       |     |   |    |
| — 50 to 60,             | -    | 84   |                               |     |   |    |
| — 60 to 70,             | -    | 86   | Houses and families,          | 273 |   |    |
| — 70 to 80,             | -    | 34   |                               |     |   |    |
| — 80 to 90,             | -    | 8    |                               |     |   | Of |



Of these there are heritors  
residing and farming, 3  
Tenants, - - - 112  
Small subtenants, 72  
Smaller subtenants, 83  
Families of the minister  
and the two school-  
masters, - - - 3

As above, 273

Of these families there are  
38 consist. of 1 individual, 38  
36 — of 2, - 72  
40 — of 3, - 120  
34 — of 4, - 136  
27 — of 5, - 135  
37 — of 6, - 222  
21 — of 7, - 147  
20 — of 8, - 160  
11 — of 9, - 99  
6 — of 10, - 60  
2 — of 12, - 24  
2 — of 13, - 26  
1 — of 14, - 14

Sum total as above, 1253  
Which is, at an average,  $4\frac{2}{3}$ ,  
or nearly  $4\frac{2}{3}$  to a family.

Among the tenants, and e-  
specially the subtenants,  
are included all the mecha-

nics or tradesmen, which  
next shall be specified by  
themselves as follows :

Wrights and coopers, and  
5 apprentices, - 18  
Sawers and wrights, 4  
Masons, - - 3  
Slaters, - - 2  
Quarriers of limestone, 2  
Merchants or retailers, 5  
Travelling pedlars, 4  
Weavers, and 4 apprent. 10  
Tailors, and 3 apprent. 10  
Shoemakers, - 3  
Blacksmiths, and 1 appr. 5  
Meal millers, - 6  
Gardeners, and 1 apprent. 3  
Ferryman at Inchbair, 1  
Sheriff-officers, - 2  
Day-labourers, - 12  
Men serv. above 18 years, 56  
Female ditto, ditto, 55  
House or family servants,  
about - - 8

None of the tenants own  
children are numbered a-  
mong the servants, though  
they often do the work of  
the farm.

There are in the parish,  
3 large lime kilns and quar-  
ries.



32 small lime kilns on the possession of the tenants, and even subtenants.

Two-thirds of these are on Finzean's estate, for the multure is not paid in kind, but converted.

Ploughs, of some sort or other, - - 120

Carts, about - 150

40 years ago there was not one.

Horses, some of them of a year old, - 325

Black cattle, do. do. 1539

Sheep, - - 6530

Goats, about - 150

A few swine.

Bee-hives kept through the winter of 1791 and 1792, about - - 300

In a favourable year (for 1792 was the reverse), these might produce from 400 to 600 more during the next summer; and most of these be exported.

No waggons.—No chaises or carriages at present; formerly there used to be two carriages.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—The King is patron. The church was built in 1779, at a considerable expense, and is a most substantial and commodious edifice, superior to most, and inferior to few places of worship in the country. The stipend is L. 50 money, 16 bolls of meal, at 9 stone; 8 bolls of bear, with L. 2 : 15 : 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, communion-element money. The glebe is scarcely legal; but part of it, particularly the garden, is valuable. The incumbent is accommodated with a farm, otherwise the glebe and offices would not render the settlement very convenient. The manse, for years, has been as insufficient as any in the country. The sum of L. 269 is allowed for giving it a thorough repair, and for building a good addition, which, if properly applied, and the work sufficiently executed, must render the manse abundantly commodious.



*Poor.*—The church-session became proprietors of a piece of land, upwards of a century ago, which yields from L. 4 to L. 5 yearly. Dr Gilbert Ramsay, late of the island of Barbadoes, mortified, in 1732, for the behoof of the poor, L. 500, from which they have had interest at 5 *per cent*. The late Robert Farquharson of Finzean, mortified 600 merks : L. 20 were left by the late Isaac Robertson of Grenada, in 1789. As yet the session has only recovered L. 15 of that legacy. With this sum, the session have L. 125 lent cash, at 4½ *per cent*. There is still due, besides a considerable sum lost, the sum of from L. 40 to L. 50, a debt, which it is to be hoped, will in time be recovered. The weekly collections at present amount to L. 9 or L. 10 annually. Ten years ago they were not more than a third of that sum. The fines of delinquents, which are not rigorously exacted, and some small payments for the mortcloth, are still to be added. Such being the funds destined for the support of the poor, it is hardly to be wondered, that several put in a claim, especially as the best tenant sometimes in a parish, is not ashamed to have his father, mother, or near relation, on the roll, which amounted here to 50 at last distribution; however, not above a third of these receive supply, unless at the two general distributions of the interest of Dr Ramsay's mortification. Few of the poor are altogether unable to provide for themselves; many are housekeepers in indigent circumstances; several widows and young families. To these, to the aged, and the infirm, we give occasional relief; to some we allow 8s. a quarter. We allow 8s. for an interment. None are allowed to be in straits, and almost none belonging to the parish go about and beg; yet of strolling beggars we have our share. In summer 1783, part of the money laid out at interest was taken up, and meal bought with it for the relief of the indigent. Crop 1782 was by no means so deficient



cient in this parish as in many others, yet meal sold from L. 1, 1 s. to L. 1, 5 s. the boll. Grain ripens pretty early in many places on the banks of the Dee.

*Schools.*—There is a parochial school, to which belongs the usual trifling salary of 100 merks. The perquisites of the schoolmaster, as session clerk, are poorly paid, particularly since the commencement of that odious and unproductive tax imposed on baptisms, &c. The consequence is, that few childrens names are registered. Till the people be relieved of this tax, and till even some plan be devised to compel a regular registration of every baptism, marriage, and burial, no exact statistical account of any parish from a public register can ever be obtained; no comparison can ever be made of the state of a parish at different periods, with sufficient accuracy. There are great chasms in the registers of this parish. It might have a good effect, were the registers of every parish regularly called for and examined by the presbytery annually. The baptism tax, &c. is not only unpopular, but hurtful to a useful class of men, the schoolmasters, who are usually the session-clerks. Many, to secure the small trifle of dues that remain, agree to pay the tax themselves; so that, in those instances, the clerk loses more than the Revenue gains. The number of the scholars at the parish school is about 20 in summer, and upwards of 30 in winter. The school-fees are as low as in any parish. The teacher cannot make above L. 10 a-year. Shall we hope that the period is not far distant when this useful body of men will be befriended by Government, and sufficient salaries appointed for them? Dr Ramsay, above mentioned, mortified also L. 500 for the support of a free school in the east end of this parish. There is a good school-house, but no fund for its support. There is a glebe of about 6 acres. The place is in the gift of Sir Alexander Ramsay, Bart. patron of all  
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Dr Ramfay's mortifications. The number of scholars that attend is, for the winter season, when the schoolmaster teaches by or along with a depute, from 20 to 30 and upwards; during all the rest of the year none. The place is well situated for an academy, and might be made to turn to much account to the master and the public. The schools of this parish have been in repute. Every school will be so or not, as it happens to be taught by one, who is not only a man of moderate abilities, but who gives attendance, and adds perseverance. Without these, what do abilities in any station avail? In some corners of the parish, they hire young men to teach for the winter season.

*Character and Size of the People.*—They are active and industrious, supporting themselves and family comfortably, and seem in general contented with their lot. At church, and at all public occasions, they are clean and decent; punctual in their attendance on public worship, and the ordinances of religion, though many of them are at a great distance from church; far more expensive in their mode of dress and living than their forefathers; but can afford it:—"All is the gift of industry." They are fond of social and convivial meetings; yet less addicted to drinking than they were some years ago. Indeed the young people squander much of their cash and their time in frequenting markets, marriages, and other merry meetings; so that often they have not a great deal to begin with when they take up house, notwithstanding their extravagant wages. On these occasions they often hurt their morals, and render themselves unfit for the duties of their stations. Both men and women are of the middling size; few men above 5 feet 10 inches; many of a lower stature, and these the ablest bodied. They are shrewd and lively, slender and hardy; differing considerably in their make from the people on

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the south side of the Grampians. They are hospitable on all occasions; but though remarkably so to strangers, they are not fond of them settling among them. They show no particular fondness for, nor, if their country need it, any particular aversion to the military or seafaring life; some of them have betaken themselves to both, and 3 Chelsea pensioners reside in the parish. The fashionable vices of the town are unknown among them. Some years ago, 1 low-spirited wretch finished his life; this excepted, there has been no other suicide. No person has been banished or capitally convicted, so far as is known to the incumbent. Few in the parish have been bred to letters, yet none are illiterate. The English or Scotch language is universally spoken; a few inhabiting the forest understand the Gaelic, but these came originally from the upper part of the country.

*Roads and Bridges.*—The principal roads in the parish, are the great road from the Cairn o'Mount, which enters this parish at the Bridge of Whitestone, a mile north from the Inn of Cutties Hillock, and leads northward to the Dee at Inchbair. This road is in excellent repair, owing chiefly to the exertions of the patriotic Sir Alexander Ramsay, Bart. Another road passes through the greater part of the parish, from the Ferry, over the Dee at Aboyne, to the Bridge of Whitestone. This, and the other roads in the parish, were made, and are kept in repair by the statute-labour, which is exacted in kind, but in a very remiss manner. The roads consequently are in some places, particularly in the east end of the parish, shamefully bad. In winter, and wet seasons, these are most uncomfortable. We have certainly excellent materials for roads; and if even the rate of 1 s. 6 d. fixed by law, were levied, and properly laid out, (as is done in a neighbouring parish), certainly our roads could soon be rendered comfortable. Turnpikes are quite



quite unknown here, and the resort on our roads is too little for the expense of them. Dr Ramsay, above mentioned, built a bridge of five arches over the Feugh at Whitestone. It accommodates the public very well, being on the great south and north road. There is no bridge over the Chattie. One over it is greatly wanted, below Marywell, and also below Inverchatt. There is a bridge over the Burn of Birse, nigh the church. But in no place is a bridge so much wanted, nor could one be built that would accommodate this parish, and the public in general, so much as at Pot-arch, over the Dee, near Inchbair. The great south and north road passes the Dee there. This road is greatly frequented, and is used by the military, being much nearer from Edinburgh to Fort George, than along the coast. During this very season (1792), the military had occasion to use this road repeatedly; once going north, to quell the riots in Ross-shire; a second time, in going from Fort George, on account of the disturbances in Dundee. The Dee is a rapid river, always inconvenient, often dangerous and impassable. Had the latter been the case on the above emergencies, what might the consequences have been? Besides, there is no other place on all this rapid river, where a bridge could be erected at so little expense, and at the same time be of such public utility. Nature has pointed out the spot where it ought to be. At Pot-arch, less than L. 1500 would do more to accommodate the public, than L. 5000 would do almost any where else over a river of the same magnitude. It is said that Dr Ramsay meant also to build a bridge over the Dee, at Pot-arch, had he not been deterred from the undertaking, by the extravagant estimate of an unskilful architect. A plan of this bridge, which is so much wanted, is in the House of Finzean; and had the late Haughton been spared for some years, it is said some means would have been devised



vifed to have got the plan executed. Though former attempts to get a bridge erected over the Dee at Pot-arch, have repeatedly proved abortive, we fhall ftill hope that foon fome public fpirited character may be found, who will ftrove to fee the attempt crowned with fuccefs. Subfcriptions could be obtained to fome amount, but ftill it is to be feared that public aid would be abfolutely neceffary. Before concluding this article, it deferves to be mentioned, that a road is planned, and begun to be made, through the weft end of this parifh, over the Grampians. It will pafs through Glen Chatt, the Forest, and Glenesk, and be 15 miles nearer from a great part of this country, to the county of Angus, &c. than by the Cairn or Mount Road. It will greatly accommodate the traveller and trader, particularly drovers and dealers in cattle.

*Advantages and Difadvantages.*—One great advantage that this parifh enjoys, is its abounding with limestone, which is to be found in many places on or near the furface. The beft is at Midftrath and Ballogie. From thefe quarries, the tenants are chiefly fupplied with the limestone which they burn at home. The greateft number of hands is employed at the Earl of Aboyne's lime-works at Birse Moor. It is, however, much againft the improver, that fuel is fo difficult to be obtained. The greater part of the fummer feafon muft be fpent in procuring that neceffary article, confequently little of it can be fpared to burn the limestone. Finding, however, the great benefit of lime as a manure, amazing exertions are made to procure fuel, (to burn the limestone), not only by cutting cart-roads along the fteep hills, to the moffes, and by purchafing wood, but even by going at times to Aberdeen for coals, which pay the high duty, and muft be brought acrofs the Dee. In this cafe, the want of a bridge at Port-arch.



arch is grievously felt. This would give more easy access to the Aberdeen market, and for coals. Our distance from market, and the difficulty of procuring manure, is much against us. Aberdeen is not only the nearest market and manufacturing town, but even the nearest post-town; a circumstance much against this country. It is in our favour that we have plenty of moss of the best sort, though not of easy access, as peat and turf is the fuel used in the parish, with wood, particularly brushwood. That our country abounds with different sorts of timber, and all of an excellent quality, is certainly an advantage. We have also plenty of granite-stone, and the best materials for building; and it is but justice to the tenants, to say that they are every day erecting better houses than they formerly occupied. But whatever our local advantages be, there is one great disadvantage under which we labour, that often counteracts and outweighs them all, namely, the difficulty of procuring, pleasing, and paying labouring servants. This evil is severely felt by all ranks in this country, and, if matters do not soon take a favourable turn, must effectually ruin the tenant. Considering the insolence and behaviour of servants in general, words must fail to describe the evil. Another evil that is pretty severely felt, is the servitude at the mill. To be liable for the sixteenth peck there, of all the produce, besides pretty high payment for grinding, over and above the multure, must check the ardour of the improver. The multure, at some of the mills, is converted; at others, the grievance exists; and consequently, in that quarter of the parish, improvement of land does scarcely exist. The payment of either certain handfulls or dishfulls of meal to the miller for his work, is not very convenient. The equitable way, is certainly to weigh the quantity paid, and this ought to be fixed by law. It is also submitted to the public, whether any person has a  
title



title to exact half multure out of the produce of a minister's glebe. This is a practice prevalent here, and in some other parishes. The services paid by the tenant to the landlord, are few, in comparison of what they were. They all perform a carriage to Aberdeen, or like distance, yearly; some of them are bound to provide a certain quantity of peats yearly; they also yearly, or occasionally, bring wood, slate, and lime to the heritor. The carriage of materials for church, manse, school, and mill, is performed by them. It must be observed, however, that the tenants do not fail in exacting services of various kinds from the subtenants; and what is worse, in several places take their small possessions often from them, after they have carefully improved them. The cottager must be at the nod of his master, perhaps the menial is less so.

*Antiquities and Eminent Men.*—On the hill, about a mile north-east of Finzean, bearing the name of Corse Dardar, there is a place marked near the way-side with a long granite-stone, which lately stood erect, but now broken down. It is reported that King Dardanus, the 20th from Fergus I. was there put to death, when flying from his rebellious subjects. At a small distance from this spot, are two cairns, one very large, and in the form of an oblong; they are now covered by the woods of Finzean. On the top of the hill, named Cairn Ferg, there is a large cairn of a conical shape. Some say it has been erected in memory of an eminent person. Others, that the ancient inhabitants resorted thither and worshipped the sun, even before the commencement of Druidism. If however, Druidism were the first religion in this island, which must have been the case, if peopled from Gaul, perhaps this might have been a place where they burned fire, or performed some rite of their religion. In various places there are several huge  
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stones



stones lying above the ground ; a few near Inchbair seem to have been a Druidical temple. In the year 1779, when they were razing the foundation of the old church, there was found a hill stone near six feet long, with a two-handed long sword, a hatchet and a cross carved upon it. The stone is now set up erect in the wall of the church-yard. In the Forest or Glenbirse, there is standing a good part of a castle, which was built by Gordon of Cluny, for a hunting seat, and which is now by the tenant converted into a sheep-cot. In several places, particularly between Marywell and the church, there appears a narrow slip of ground that has been fenced on both sides by stone walls, said to be built by order of King Kenneth III. for confining the deer which he wished to drive from this country, to stock a deer park which he built in the brae of the Mearns, near his palace of Kincardine. The wall of that park, it is said, can still be traced, and is called the Deers-dike. In this parish part of the Kirktown farm is called Deer-hillock. At Easter-Clune there are the small remains of a square tower, said to have been built by Archbishop Ross, who was proprietor of the place. It is universally agreed, that Easter-Clune was a (hunting or) summer-seat of one of the bishops of Scotland, some say, St Andrew's, others, Dunkeld.—Besides the archbishop or bishop to whom the tower belonged, and who was a native of Birse, the parish has given birth to some others whose names deserve to be mentioned. Dr Gilbert Ramsay, late Rector of Christ's church, in the island of Barbadoes, was a native of this parish. He mortified, under the patronage of Sir Alexander Ramsay of Balmain, Bart. and his heirs, L. 2000 Sterling, the interest for the support of 4 students of divinity ; L. 1200, the interest for the support of 4 students of philosophy ; and L. 1000, the interest to support a professor of the Oriental languages, all at the Marischal college. His donations to this parish are already mentioned.



mentioned.—Dr Alexander Garden, late of Charlestown, South Carolina, eminent for his skill as a physician, celebrated also for his learning and polite conversation as a gentleman. He was an American refugee, and caused a marble monument, with an inscription in Latin, truly classical, be erected in the front of the church wall here, to the memory of the late worthy Mr Alexander Garden, his father, who was upwards of 50 years minister of this parish, and who died upwards of 90 years of age.—Dr Rose of Birsebeg, was also an American refugee.—Mr William Rose of Newmill, was many years at the head of a flourishing academy which he had near London.—The famous George Rose, Esq; of the treasury, is grandson to the late Donald Rose of Wester-Clune. Here we note, that many of the name of Ros or Rose, were proprietors once in Birse; of the name we have only now a few tenants.—Captain David Ochterlounie, mortally wounded at the first attack made by General Wolfe on Quebec, when the British were forced to retreat, and the Captain taken. So much was he the favourite of the celebrated Wolfe, that he sent to the town to the Marquis de Montcalm, desiring that particular care should be taken of the Captain. He died in two days.—A living character might be added, Dr William Farquharson, physician in Edinburgh, famous for his address in curing cancerous complaints.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—A rocky substance appears from Tillyfrusky to the river Feugh, which seems to have been in a fusible state, and resembles the lava emitted by a volcano. It is near the surface of the ground.—There are two, sometimes three ale-houses in the parish; the traveller has occasion to call at them, and the people do still transact too much of their business in these and houses of a similar sort.—None ever died for want.—In 1791, one family emigrated



grated to Philadelphia, not for want of employment, or for any want whatever, but rather out of fondness of change, and having a friend before them. An unmarried woman remained; she regrets that she did not go with the rest, for, says she, "Troubles are only beginning here, but they are over there." We trust she is not inspired with the gift of prophecy. The largest plantations, and greatest number of trees of all sorts are certainly on the estate of Finzean, yet, among many others, two remarkable trees grow, the one at Midstrath, and the other at Ballogie, which have deservedly been resorted to and admired by the curious. The one at Midstrath is ash, and measures upwards of 20 feet in circumference at the ground, from 17 to 19 feet little above the ground. Its branches are as large as ordinary trees. It is vulgarly called the *Maiden of Midstrath*. The tree at Ballogie is birch of the weeping sort; some think it 100 feet high, others only from 70 to 80. It has a straight stem of 50 feet and upwards, and 5 feet in circumference through the whole. Many young trees of the above kind on the burn of Chattie, are in a fair way of equalling soon this beautiful one \*.

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\* To the north-east of Finzean, is a hill called the Gallow Hill. Another is near to Ballogie. There the Barons of old, who held their estates with power of pit and gallows, put to death any of their tenants or dependents, who were so unfortunate as to fall under their displeasure. What blessed days do we now enjoy, in comparison of these? How thankful to God, and loyal to the King, ought we therefore to be? Our case has been meliorated, and, by a wise Legislature, will, by degrees, be so still. Were some of the duty taken off the leather and the malt, this would greatly ease the subject in this corner. Were the landlords to grant longer leases, and be pleased to take a moderate conversion for the multure paid to the mill, this would encourage the tenants to improve, and would wean them from the old unproductive mode of farming. Were allowance given them for the stone-foot of their houses, as well as for the timber, which, by the by, is done in the land of Ballogie, this would induce them



them to be at some expense in building neat houses, witness what is already done in Monywell. Were allowance given for inclosing, (the parish, for the most part, being uninclosed), and were the inclosures protected by winter herding, to which the heritor should bind them, this would be patronizing the improver, and be productive of the most beneficial effects. Were care taken by all to improve the morals of themselves, and all around them, how happy and prosperous might our land and people be!—As to the state of a remote corner of this parish, called the Forest, or Glen-Birse, in the year 1724, the first inhabitant went to reside, and cultivate the ground there; now there are 120 acres and odds under cultivation, yielding upwards of L. 60 rent. There are 147 inhabitants. Being removed from the means of education, their children and young people, in number 37, are in great want of a teacher. In a neighbouring glen, called Glenchatt, there are near 50 inhabitants; formerly only a few families. By the increase in these glens, perhaps the population of the parish is equal to what it was 30 or 40 years ago; though, in many places, there are fewer inhabitants, owing to the union of farms, &c. Application has been made lately to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in behalf of the above glens, that a teacher may be nominated for them; and we trust the Society will lend a favourable ear to our petition.

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NUMBER IX.

PARISH OF KINGOLDRUM,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES,  
PRESBYTERY OF MEIGLE.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES BADENACH.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Climate, &c.*

THE origin of the name seems to be uncertain. It is said to be derived from the Gaelic, and to signify, "The Town between the Drums." This signification is, at least, expressive of the local situation of the kirk and kirktown, which stand between two drums or eminences, with the burn of Cromby running between them. The parish is about 7 miles from N. to S. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  from E. to W. It is properly a hilly or mountainous district, with small rivulets between the hills, in which there is good angling for trout. In the north part of the parish the mountains rise to a considerable height, especially Catlaw, whose elevation above the level of the sea, has been found, by barometrical mensuration, to be 2264 feet, and at the base of which, on the N.E. there is a chalybeate spring, useful in weaknesses.



weaknesses. On Catlaw, and the adjoining mountains, partly green, and partly heath, there is excellent pasture for sheep; and Catlaw mutton is remarkable for its superior delicacy and flavour. There is but little flat land; almost the whole of it sloping gently with a north or south exposure. The climate is nearly the same throughout the whole parish, and any variation is owing to exposure and local situation. Along the braes of Balfour and Baldovie, lying to the south, and sheltered with a rising ground on the north, the air is rather milder and more temperate than in any other part of the parish; and both spring and harvest somewhat earlier. The air, however, in general is cold and sharp, yet extremely healthy; and to the salubrity of the air and the water, it may probably be owing that agues never make their appearance. The prevalent diseases are fevers, colds, sore throats, and consumptions.

*Soil, Produce, and Rent.*—The soil is various: In some places it is a kind of clay, cold and wet; in others a light sand; but in general is a rich black mould. The principal crops are barley and oats. Of late years wheat has been raised in particular places, especially in the braes of Kenny and Baldovie, with great success. Turnip and potatoes, clover and rye-grass, are common in every part of this parish. A small quantity of pease is sown chiefly for fodder, and on every farm more or less flax seed, for domestic uses. More grain is raised than is consumed by the inhabitants; a part of their barley is bought by a distiller in the parish, and the remainder, with the oats, wheat, and meal, are carried to the Dundee and the Kirrimuir markets. Both spring and harvest are later than in the vale of Strathmore, to the south, owing to more frequent showers among the hills, and to a keener air in the narrow openings between them.



them, than in a wide extended vale. The soil is in most places of excellent quality, and climate only is wanting to render it extremely productive. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2555 Scots; the real rent about L. 1600 Sterling. Most of the leases were granted several years ago, and many of them are said to be extremely reasonable. The arable acre is from 5s. to 18s. and the number of arable acres is between 3000 and 4000. There is no map of the parish, nor can the waste land and rough pasture be ascertained with any degree of precision. There are 8 heritors, 1 of whom resides constantly, and another occasionally.

*Improvements.*—Within the last 20 years considerable improvements have been made. The situation is favourable for manure, from being in the immediate vicinity of an inexhaustible fund of shell marl, a part of which lies in the parish, and belongs to the proprietor of Balfour, from which his own tenants have privilege, by their leases, to any quantity which their improvements require. Besides laying out the fields in a regular manner, fallowing, and marling, several farms have been inclosed with substantial stone fences, an improvement which greatly enhances their value. Planting likewise is going on in different places, and in particular upon the estate of Captain Wedderburn of Pearlie, where, besides a considerable portion of the arable land being inclosed, there are plantations to a great extent. A good deal of attention has also been paid to the breeding of horses and cattle, as well for sale as for private use, and the breed of both has of late years been much improved. Upon the estate of Pearlie, cattle, bred out of small highland cows, have arisen, from the richness of the pasture to such a size, as to bring L. 10, L. 12, and sometimes



times L. 15 a head, for turnip-feeding, or heavy carriages.

*Antiquities.*—On a hill called the *Schurrock*, to the westward of the church, there are in three different places, equally distant from each other, several large stones, erected in a circular form, called here Druds altars, which is evidently a corruption of Druids altars, and shows them to have been places of Pagan worship. Upon the top of another hill, called Catlaw, already mentioned, which bounds this parish on the north, there is a very large cairn of stones, in a circular form also; but whether used as a place of worship, or of observation, from whence signals were given to the country, on the approach of an enemy, is uncertain. The castle of Balfour, formerly the principal residence of Ogilvy of Balfour, an ancient family, and a decedent of the family of Airly, has some claim to antiquity. As there is no date to be seen upon any part of the walls, which are still standing, it is not generally known in what year it was built. The structure is evidently in the Gothic style; and, from facts connected with it, about which there is no uncertainty, must be upwards of 200 years old, and might probably have been erected about the middle of the 16th century. The family of Balfour is sunk into the family of Fotheringham, and Colonel Fotheringham of Pourie, by the female line, is proprietor of the estate of Balfour, the most extensive, and the best land of any in the parish.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 780. The population is diminishing. The present number is about 600. Of whom are 18 or 20, who are Episcopalians; and 2 men and 1 woman, who are Seceders. The number of families is 129.  
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The births, marriages, and deaths, as inserted in the parish-register for the last 10 years, are as under :

| Years. | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|--------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1781   | 18      | 6          | 14      |
| 1782   | 15      | 0          | 9       |
| 1783   | 18      | 7          | 16      |
| 1784   | 13      | 5          | 10      |
| 1785   | 18      | 5          | 10      |
| 1786   | 9       | 8          | 12      |
| 1787   | 15      | 5          | 8       |
| 1788   | 17      | 3          | 14      |
| 1789   | 16      | 8          | 9       |
| 1790   | 16      | 7          | 12      |
| 1791   | 15      | 10         | 11      |

No manufactures are carried on in the parish. There are but few tradesmen of any description, and these few are employed for parochial purposes ; almost all the rest of the inhabitants being engaged in the operations of husbandry. The decrease of population, as above stated, is owing partly to the union of farms, and partly to tradesmen and smaller tenants removing to villages and sea-port towns, from interest or convenience. In consequence of this decrease, together with the flourishing state of manufactures in Angus, the wages of labouring servants have arisen in a *quadruple ratio*, within the last 40 years \*.

*Stipend,*

\* For example, the best ploughman in this parish, and perhaps in the Braes of Angus, could have been hired about 40 years ago, for L. 2, or L. 2, 5s. in the year ; whereas good ploughmen are receiving at present, from L. 8 to L. 9. The rise in the wages of women servants, day labourers, and harvest reapers, is in the same proportion ; and, for the last ten years, has been more rapid than in any period of the same extent, within the 40. The farmer is however enabled to meet this advance of the price of



*Stipend, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is  $82\frac{1}{2}$  bolls victual, and L. 22 : 8 :  $3\frac{6}{11}$  money, besides a manse and glebe of about 4 acres. The church was originally a parsonage, belonging to the Abbey of Arbroath; and the greater part of the present stipend is payable from abbey-lands in that neighbourhood. Towards the end of the 12th, or in the beginning of the 13th century, a donation of the parish was made to the abbey by Sir Allan Durward of Len-trathen, and this donation is said to have been confirmed by a charter from the Hostiary of Scotland, of date 1253. From the time of the donation by Sir Allan Durward, until some years after the middle of the 16th century, the lands of Kingoldrum continued in the possession of the Abbey, and about the year 1565, the greater part of them is said to have been feued *cum decimis inclusis*. The burden of the stipend continued still to fall upon the Abbey, and after the erection of the Abbey into a temporal lordship, it devolved upon the titular of the tithes. The consequence of which was, that, by the decret of provision, dated in the year 1635, more than one half of the present stipend was allocated upon abbey-lands in the neighbourhood of Arbroath, from which it continues to be payable to the minister of Kingoldrum till this day.—In a parish in which there is no village, and scarce any householders who have not some employment adequate to their sustenance, there cannot be many who stand in need of alms. The number at present upon the poors roll amounts only to 5; all of whom

of labour, upon these grounds, that fewer servants are necessary, and more work is performed by the same number of servants, than in any former period; because a third, or certainly less than a half of the same farm yields better grain, and a greater quantity of it, than the whole did 30 or 40 years ago; and because his grain, his horses, and his cattle, his poultry, his butter, and his cheese, are brought to a better, and for the most part to a ready-money market.



whom are heads of families, and receive a weekly allowance. Besides collections in the church on the Sundays, there is a considerable fund belonging to the poor, the interest of which, together with the weekly collections, is sufficient for every purpose of parochial charity. In the year 1782, the year in which the present incumbent was ordained, it does not appear that the number of poor increased, and the only difference between that and other years, seems to have been a more liberal disbursement to such as were already upon the roll.

*Manners, &c.*—Plainness of manners and honesty in their dealings, characterize the inhabitants of this district. In their several occupations they are industrious, and at the same time carry on their business without noise and without feuds. Many of them are in easy circumstances, and all live within their income. Their stature is about the middle size; their food plain, and they possess all the spirit and activity of Highlanders. In profession they are Presbyterians, and well attached to the family on the throne. If their zeal is temperate, it is not the less real; want of enthusiasm being no proof of indifference, but, on the contrary, of soundness in principle. Whether the parish has produced any eminent men, either in science or in arms, is uncertain; it is said, however, to have given birth to a famous actress on the English stage.



## NUMBER X.

## PARISH OF ABERNYTE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNDEE.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES ADAMSON.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, and Soil.*

A BERNYTE is evidently of Gaelic origin, referring to the situation of the village, near the confluence of two rivulets, one of which had probably obtained the name of Nyte. It is nearly equally distant from the towns of Perth and Dundee; and is entirely situated in those hills that rise gradually from the Carse of Gowrie, to the top of the ridge of Dunfinnan. The highest point of which, called King's feat, is 1050 feet above the level of the sea, and is in this parish. The most cultivated part of the parish lies 700 or 800 feet lower, and is distant from the frith of Tay in a right line about 3 miles. This parish forms a kind of irregular oval, becoming very narrow at each end; its greatest length little more than 3 miles, its greatest breadth about 2; the valley, about half a mile in length, in which the village is situated, and the braes on the sides of it, are of a light, dry, fertile soil, lying upon a bed of coarse



coarse gravel, or rather rotten moor-stone. The grounds higher up, of a deep, loose, poor soil, and partly of mortar, or coarse till, on a bed of wet gravel. Toward the tops of the hills the soil is thin and rocky, producing little but coarse grass, mixed with heath. The number of acres in the parish cannot be accurately ascertained, but is estimated at 1600.

*Heritors and Rent.*—The parish is divided among 4 heritors, 1 of whom possesses more than half of it; none of them reside. The valued rent is L. 1126 : 13 : 4 Scots, and the real rent about L. 830 Sterling. The farms are let either at a fixed sum for the whole farm, or at a certain value the acre; so that the rent of different kinds of soil cannot be accurately stated, every farm containing some portion of hill or moor ground. The valley in which the village and church stand, is let at L. 2 Sterling the acre, being divided into small possessions.

*Climate, Diseases.*—The air, as in other hill countries, is dry and cold; seed time and harvest, later than in the low grounds of the Carse of Gowrie. Oats and pease are sown from the end of March to the middle of April; potatoes and flax in the end of April; barley from the 1st to the end of May; turnips in the beginning of July; wheat from the end of September to the middle of November. Wheat is generally reaped about the end of August; the harvest of the other crops succeeds soon after. In the higher and moorish part of the parish, it is often the end of November before all is got in. No epidemic diseases have been remarkable for their ravages in this parish, except those common everywhere among children. The people have very lately begun to permit inoculation for the small pox. About 40 years ago, some people entertained an idea, that the hill  
country



country was less healthy than the low wet land of the Carse. The reverse is now undoubtedly the fact here; for some years past in the spring, a rush fever has visited the low grounds on each side of the hills, viz. The Carse and Strathmore, and carried off numbers; very few, however, of the inhabitants of this parish were infected, and none died. Of epidemic diseases, it may be remarked, that agues, which some years ago appeared in great numbers, both in high and low grounds, have now entirely vanished. This has been attributed to the draining of wet lands, and more nourishing diet of the people. I have been assured, that 30 years ago, if a farmer in the spring wanted 4 of his cottagers for any piece of work, he generally ordered 6, knowing the probability that some of them, before the work could be finished, would be rendered unfit for labour, by an attack of the ague. Rheumatisms, called emphatically the *pains*, prevail in this district, as in most places of Scotland. The most general disease, however, in this district, and particularly in this parish, is scrofula; not a family of most of the indigenous inhabitants of the lower ranks is free from it. Some labourers in this parish are at present deprived by it of the power of earning their subsistence. This evil seems rather to be on the increase, from the carelessness of the people themselves, and the intermarriages of the unsound with the healthy.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the number of souls was then 258. The population, though now nearly the same as at the beginning of the century, has decreased considerably within these 20 years. The number of inhabitants, on 1st January 1792, was 345; of examinable persons, *i. e.* above 8 years of age, 276.

Births.



|          | Births. |          |        | Marriages. Deaths. |    |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------------------|----|
|          | Males.  | Females. | Total. |                    |    |
| 1782     | 6       | 8        | 14     | 5                  | 4  |
| 1783     | 5       | 2        | 7      | 3                  | 3  |
| 1784     | 7       | 6        | 13     | 9                  | 13 |
| 1785     | 6       | 6        | 12     | 4                  | 8  |
| 1786     | 3       | 9        | 12     | 8                  | 6  |
| 1787     | 3       | 8        | 11     | 12                 | 6  |
| 1788     | 7       | 3        | 10     | 10                 | 4  |
| 1789     | 11      | 5        | 16     | 6                  | 8  |
| 1790     | 8       | 4        | 12     | 4                  | 5  |
| 1791     | 7       | 6        | 13     | 2                  | 12 |
|          | —       | —        | —      | —                  | —  |
| Total,   | 63      | 57       | 120    | 70                 | 69 |
| Average, |         |          | 12     | 7                  | 7  |

The marriages are of persons not couples.

The great number of deaths in 1784 and 1791, was owing to the natural small pox.—The average number of births, at the beginning of the century, is 11.5. At that period, the register of marriages and deaths is very inaccurate; I have therefore taken no average of them. The whole number of houses at present is 73; so that the number to a family is 4.7. The proportion of births to the whole number, is - - - 1 in 28.75  
of deaths, - - - 1 in 49  
of marriages, - - - 1 in 49.2

To ascertain the population at the beginning of the century, we may take  $12 : 345 :: 11.5 : 330.6$ . It appears that the method mentioned for ascertaining the real state of population, of multiplying births by 26, and deaths by 36, would give an inaccurate state of the numbers of this parish.



rish. It is, however, to be remarked, that children born dead, or who die before they are baptized, are neither recorded in the register of births nor deaths.

|          | Births. |          |        | Marriages. Deaths. |      |
|----------|---------|----------|--------|--------------------|------|
|          | Males.  | Females. | Total. |                    |      |
| 1760     | 8       | 9        | 17     | 5                  | 8    |
| 1761     | 9       | 4        | 13     | 7                  | 13   |
| 1762     | 10      | 6        | 16     | 12                 | 11   |
| 1763     | 6       | 10       | 16     | 8                  | 8    |
| 1764     | 9       | 7        | 16     | 4                  | 18   |
| 1765     | 6       | 7        | 13     | 9                  | 7    |
| 1766     | 10      | 10       | 20     | 7                  | 9    |
| 1767     | 9       | 10       | 19     | 10                 | 10   |
| 1768     | 5       | 2        | 7      | 9                  | 13   |
| 1769     | 12      | 8        | 20     | 2                  | 10   |
|          | —       | —        | —      | —                  | —    |
| Total,   | 84      | 73       | 127    | 73                 | 107  |
| Average, |         |          | 15.7   |                    | 10.7 |

To ascertain the population, we may take  $12:345::15.7:451.3$ . The examination-roll was 362. Therefore  $276:345::362:456.8$ . It appears then that this has decreased at least 100. To confirm this account, it may be added that two villages, which then consisted of 60 houses, have now only 30; that another, which had 8 or 9, has now only one; though, to compensate this loss in part, some new houses have lately been built in different situations. Depopulation was produced here, by the same means which brought it about in other places, the expulsion of cottagers. Their disuse, however, arose here from a cause different from the common one; in general, it proceeded from the enlargement of farms, and junction of several



veral into one. Here, by the diminution and separation of farms. Previous to 1769, the whole estate of Abernyte, which is more than half the parish, was let to four farmers, who possessed their arable lands in the old state of run-ridge, and held their grafs in common. A division was then made, and the estate split into five farms of a larger kind, and 8 or 10 of smaller dimensions. The tenants of this last order, being generally manufacturers, with large families, managed their little farms without the assistance of any servants. And the others preferred unmarried servants, who, living in the house, were constantly under their eye, to cottagers; who having families at home, were supposed to pay more attention to them than was consistent with their master's interest. Another cause that has affected population in some degree, is the non-residence of some farmers, and the inclosing and turning into grafs a large farm, which has now upon it neither farmer nor servant. In a large district the operation of these causes would be scarce felt; but in a small parish like this, their effects are more conspicuous. There is scarce a place in the parish now that deserves the name of a village. Three hamlets contain among them 41 houses. The other houses are scattered through the parish; many of them stand singly, a few of them in pairs or greater numbers. All the inhabitants are natives of Scotland. There are 88 married persons; 13 widows and 3 widowers; males above 8 years, 126; females, 150; males below 8, 39; females, 30. Farmers who have no other occupation, 7; their servants, 18; servants of farmers not residing, 7; wrights, 6; turner, 1; cooper, 1; weavers, 17; tailor, 1; shoemakers, 2; brewers, 2; butcher, 1; flaxdressers, 2; thatcher, 1; smiths, 3; corn-millers, 3; flax-millers, 5; carters, 2; labourers, 6.

*Agriculture,*



*Agriculture, &c.*—Very considerable improvements have taken place in this parish within these 20 or 30 years. One of them I already hinted at, the abolishing the run-ridge system. The inconveniencies of the old system, and its influence in retarding improvement, are very obvious. But indeed the genius of the country at that time was little directed to this important object. Proprietors farming their own lands made as little progress as the oppressed tenant. About 20 years ago, a new spirit seemed to arise in all this part of the country. Improvements took place every where. Certain circumstances in the situation of this parish retarded their progress among us for some years. One of the most powerful of these circumstances, was the short leases given to the tenants. Many farms were held only by the year. This, however, was lately remedied in some degree, and leases for 19 years granted through all the parish. Improvement followed of course, furze and broom were grubbed up on the hills, and the land ploughed for the first time; bogs were drained, and pasture and outfield grounds brought into more perfect cultivation. There is still much outfield ground in the higher part of the parish. One farm is divided into 15 acres infield, and 125 outfield, besides moor grounds. The means of improvement here are green crops, particularly artificial grasses, fallowing and lime. A little marl was used some years ago, but it is now all exhausted; within a convenient distance, lime is preferred as a more stimulating manure, while it is less pernicious to the soil, marl having been found to exhaust the ground very completely in a short time. Lime is procured from Polgavie, a harbour on the Tay, about 4 miles distant. It is brought chiefly from the frith of Forth and Sunderland, and some small quantities from Newburgh, on the other side of the Tay. It is purchased at the harbour at the following prices: Newburgh, the boll barley measure,

3

sure,



sure, 2 s. 3 d.; Sunderland, same measure, 2 s. 4 d.; Forth, wheat measure, 1 s. 6 d. The general allowance the acre, 25 bolls barley measure, or 34 of wheat measure. Lime is laid on with a crop of wheat or barley. The manner of ploughing uniformly is with two horses and one man; the plough is the common English. No cattle are used in husbandry in any part of the parish. The number of ploughs is 31, of carts 35. No rotation of crops can be said to be observed in this parish. They endeavour to have wheat every 4th year, for which they prepare the ground by fallow, pease, potatoes, or by a half fallow after flax. The quantity of grain produced cannot be stated with precision. Number of acres sown with wheat about 70; pease 20; potatoes 12 or 14; flax 16; turnip 14; grass 70; barley about 120; oats is the principal crop, but it is impossible to state the number of acres, as that varies every year as the season may suit for breaking up outfield grounds. Little barley is sown in outfield, and bear is not cultivated. Various species of wheat have been introduced here from the Carse, but the Scots white wheat is chiefly cultivated, having from its hardness been found most suited to the climate. The oats used are the common white, a few parcels of black and grey in the outfields, and some early Dutch in rich soils. Several experiments have been made with other kinds of early oats, with larger grains, but none have turned out so profitable as these, which often produce 10 bolls the acre. The general produce of an acre may be estimated, of wheat, barley and infield oats, about 7 bolls each; outfield oats 4; pease 3. Pease are not sown for the crop, but merely as a mean of melioration. The kind commonly used is an early black. Beans are very seldom attempted. Flax produces 25 stones the acre; quantity sown is 10 pecks the acre. The seed is generally saved; though little of it is fit for sowing again, it brings about 1 s. the peck for the oil-mills.



mills. It is to be observed, that the firlo, both barley and wheat, is a Scotch pint larger than the standard. This may be in some degree owing to a privilege possessed by the burgh of Dundee, of taking a ladleful from every boll delivered in the town or at the harbour.—About 80 young cattle are reared annually, which are sold at the age of 2 or 3 years. Very few are fed in the parish. Eight or 10 young horses are annually bred. The number of horses is 86; of milk cows 122; the cattle here are of a small breed, from 15 to 30 stone; there are now no sheep kept; within these 40 years, there were two considerable flocks, whose walks have been converted into tillage, or occupied by black cattle, to which our coarse pasture is better adapted\*.

*Manufactures, Wages, Prices, &c.*—From the state of the cultivation of the parish, it is evident, that numbers of the people are employed in agriculture. The manufacture of coarse linen also employs a considerable proportion, though the number of weavers is now greatly lessened, the destruction of cottages having chiefly affected this class of people. The kinds manufactured here are coarse shirting and harn or packsheet. This stuff sells from 3½d. to 4½d. the yard. An ordinary weaver is able to manufacture from

\* While the improvement of land in general has been pretty well attended to, one branch of it, of importance both to the pleasure and healthy subsistence of the artisan, has been almost entirely neglected, viz. gardening. In the gardens even of the farmers, the only vegetables raised are kail and potatoes, and sometimes a few cabbages. In the cottager's yard, the last is entirely omitted; though they are all fond of, and consume great quantities of the onion tribe, they never think of cultivating a single plant of them. The kail used here is a coarse hardy red species, which seems peculiar to the country.—No minerals have been discovered, nor are there almost any stones fit for building; to which may be attributed, in some degree, the miserable hovels in which the people live, and the few inclosures that have yet been made.



from 20 to 30 yards a day. In the parish are 3 mills, 2 for corn, and 1 for flax. One of the mills only has thirlage, which is not very extensive, nor are the multures heavy, amounting on *insucken* or grain thirled to a 15th part of the meal produced, on *outsucken*, to a 20th. Flax is scutched at 18 d. the stone. On a small stream called Tidyad, which separates this parish from Longforgan, there are, within the space of a mile, 9 mills, 4 of which are for flax, 2 others within the same space were lately pulled down, as they stood within a piece of ground laying out for pleasure ground \*.

Living

\* The wages in this district are, for a labourer, 8 d. or 9 d. with his victuals; from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. without; when engaged by the season for threshing, 9 d. the boll. There is yet only one threshing-mill in the parish. Wages of a wright, 1 s. 4 d.; of a tailor, 8 d. with victuals. Out-work is generally done by the piece. Wages of a man servant, from L. 8 to L. 10 a-year; provisions to those who do not eat in the house, 16 pound of oat-meal the week, and 6 d. for milk, or a cow among two or three; of women servants, from L. 3 to L. 3, 10 s. which are not paid wholly in money, but partly in certain perquisites called bountiths. Women not engaged in service, are employed in spinning yarn for linens and thread. For spinning, they receive from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 5 d. the spindle, of which they spin a half one the day. It appears from Boetius, that linen was very early a considerable manufacture at Dundee, and it still continues the staple of this country. A woman's hire for weeding, is 5 d. with victuals, or 8 d. without; in harvest, 9 d. and 10 d.; in harvest, a man's 1 s. The common practice is to hire for a whole harvest, when a man receives from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s.; a woman, from 15 s. to 18 s. A harvest lasts from 3 to 5 weeks. In the Carse, where the harvest is earlier, and of shorter duration, they have frequently finished before we begin here. Hence it is no uncommon thing for a person to reap two harvests, and in the course of 5 or 6 weeks to earn, a man L. 2, 10 s. and a woman L. 1, 10 s. The provisions for reapers uniformly in this country, are bread and ale for dinner; they are allowed somewhat more than a pound of oat-bread, and 3 mutchkins of ale.—The prices of provisions have been doubled here within these 20 years. Butchers meat is from 3 d. to 4 d. the pound; a fowl, 1 s.; eggs, from 3 d. to 5 d.; butter, from 7 d. to 10 d. the pound; cheese, from



*Living of the People.*—No luxurious mode of living has yet obtained among any class in this parish. To the farmer, the farm or the parish supplies almost every dainty except sugar and tea. Seldom any spirit is used but whisky. The wages earned by labourers, compared with the price of provisions, point out that the rearing of a family cannot be attended with great difficulty. There has not been an instance of a family applying for relief to the session when the parents were in health. The staple provision among the labouring class is here, as in almost all Scotland, oat-meal. Very little meal of pease or barley is now eaten, while wheat flour is daily coming more into use. Every peasant possesses a milk cow, which, if he rent no land, costs about L. 1, 10 s. a year. Great part of this class occupy an acre or two of land, and thus supply themselves with milk at less perceptible expense. From August to April, potatoes in a great measure are substituted for oat-meal, to which they add a little salt-meat. In spring and summer they scarce taste butcher-meat, except a little unfed veal, which sells from 1½ d. to 2 d. the pound. Since so much attention was paid to breeding cattle, this article of provision is become scarcer. Tea and sugar are little used by this class of people, though they are daily becoming more fashionable. Their chief luxuries are snuff, tobacco and whisky; the use of whisky has become very great. In this small parish there are two licensed, besides some private

from 4 s. 6 d. to 5 s. 6 d. the stone. The price of wheat is commonly about 6 d. or 1 s. above, and barley 1 s. below the Haddington market. Oat-meal from 10 d. to 1 s. 1 d. the peck. The price of grain from this country, in the Canal and other markets, to which it is exported, has been much hurt of late by the injudicious practice among some buyers, of mixing in the same cargo the fine large full grain of low rich soils, with the lean light stuff from the hills. This parish raises a great deal more provision than serves itself. The overplus is disposed of in the markets of Perth, Cupar in Angus, and Dundee, chiefly in the last.



vate retailers. It has not, however, produced hitherto any very sensible alteration on the constitution and morals of the people. Perhaps, in a hill country, and where, by the permission of small stills, there is little temptation to adulterate the spirit, its effects may be less deleterious. The use of tobacco may almost be said to be excessive, especially among the female sex; there is scarce a young woman, by the time she has been taught to spin, but has also learnt to smoke. Smoking seems to have been introduced here as an antidote to rheumatism and ague; the favourable alteration, however, with respect to these diseases, has produced only a greater avidity for this indulgence. Fuel is not an expensive article. In summer the peasantry burn only broom and furze, which they frequently have for the cutting, at all times for a small price. The light lands in the hills, after being a year or two out of tillage, are over-run with broom. Indeed, about 40 years ago, when the excessive badness of the roads rendered the transportation of fuel difficult, it was reckoned no inconsiderable improvement to sow out light lands with broom for fuel. In winter they burn turf and coals, which last sell at Polgavie from 3 s. 6 d. to 4 s. the boll, of 800 wt. We have no peats. Coals are found the cheapest fuel; but the badness of the roads renders the carriage difficult. Hitherto the roads in this parish, being a small one, and having no resident heritor, have been much neglected. Now that the principal roads are making by tolls, it is to be hoped, that the cross roads will be attended to, without which this great improvement will be of no use to the hill country. To render the conveyance of coal and lime more easy, it was lately proposed to cut a canal from the Tay to the foot of the hills about Baledgarno, about half a mile below this. This useful project, however, seems at present to be dropt. A canal would undoubtedly be of



great advantage to this district, to the town of Cupar in Angus, and to great part of the back country, where they are obliged to fetch their coal and lime from Perth or Dundee, at a much greater distance than the head of the intended canal would be. The little expense that would be incurred in cutting a canal through a country almost perfectly level, would very soon be repaid by a trifling duty.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The living consists of 27 bolls of barley, 2 of wheat, and 4 of oat-meal, and L. 365 Scots. Part of the stipend is paid out of certain funds belonging to the Cathedral of Dunkeld. A grant for L. 42 was procured from the Crown in 1744, to be divided among the ministers of Dunkeld, Bervie and Abernyte; but from the manner in which the money is collected, they are able to realize only about 8 guineas each. The whole stipend may be worth L. 62. The glebe consists of about 10 acres, one half of which is rocky pasture ground. The King is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is only 100 merks Scots, with a house and garden. The scholars may amount to 30. The fees are, for reading, 1 s. for writing, arithmetic and latin, 1 s. 6 d.; the whole living, including session-clerk's emoluments, does not amount to L. 15 a-year.—The average number of poor maintained by the parish is 3 or 4. The fund for supporting them arises from contributions on Sundays, and some small fees for the use of the pall, &c. The annual amount of the collections and fees is about L. 13. This fund is more than sufficient for the maintenance of the poor, and has been accumulating for several years past. No person belonging to the parish is permitted to beg. The poor, in general, earn some part of their own subsistence, though there are occasionally some whose whole support must be derived from the



the parish. It should be observed, that the whole of the fund cannot be laid out upon the poor; every session must give some salary, however small, to their clerk, beadle, &c. It is much to be wished, that sessions could afford to give more than they usually do to their clerk, who, in all country parishes, is also the schoolmaster, as the landed proprietors in Scotland seem determined to oppose the just claims of this most useful body of men to some increase of salary\*.

*Character*

\* In 1782-3, this parish shared with the rest of the country, in the lateness and scantiness of the crops. But the session's fund was found sufficient for the additional claims then made upon them, and this parish declined accepting any of the Government bounty given to the North of Scotland; though some of the more opulent parishes in the neighbourhood claimed their share. The year 1740 seems, from all tradition, to have been more distressing to the poor than 1782-3. The country itself produced a much smaller quantity of grain. That most useful vegetable, potato, was unknown; manufactures were in a much less flourishing state; and cattle, the staple commodity of this country, at that time bore no price; a cow or young ox, now worth L. 5 Sterling, selling then for L. 10 or L. 12 Scots. It appears, from tradition, and our session record, that much of the people's distress here, arose from want of employment; which disabled them from purchasing meal, though sold at a lower price than in 1783. The heritors of this parish, according to a general order of the county, met twice, to consider the state of the poor, and of the fund for their support. The session's fund was found adequate to the relief of the necessitous, during the whole of that severe season. This fund they expended in purchasing oat-meal, which they distributed according to the wants of families, allowing 8 pound the week to young persons, and those unable to work. "They appointed also lint to be bought, and given unto those women that are *capable* of spinning, that they may *partly* work for their own livelihood." I have quoted these words of the record, because they evince, either that the art of spinning was not universally practised, or that some number had been disabled from working. The first is most likely. This extract shows also the low state of the manufacture at that time. A woman is now able not only to earn her subsistence by spinning, but to save money. The flax was then bought, that they might *partly* work for their livelihood. Yarn then sold for less than the spinning



*Character of the People.*—All the inhabitants belong to the Established Church, except 1 Unitarian, 1 family of Episcopalians, and 1 of Baptists. There are few districts in Scotland that have been less disturbed by religious dissensions than the Carse of Gowrie. From Perth to the extremity of the county towards Dundee, a populous district of 18 miles in length, and 5 or 6 in breadth, there are but 2 meeting houses for separatists, each of which has but a small flock. The inhabitants of this district were much reproached by the zealots of last century, for their supineness and carelessness about their controversies; though the people here are moderate, they are not justly reproached with inattention to religion; in general they attend its services well. The people are industrious and peaceable, though unrefined in their manners. Few have been known to enlist in the army, fewer have entered into the navy, none belonging

ning of it now costs. Wheels for two hands, now universally used in this country, were not then introduced. Wheels of any kind, indeed, were little used. The rock and spindle were the only instruments for manufacturing yarn.—Another circumstance, in the record, points out the great straits to which the people were reduced. It is well known what zeal the people of Scotland at that time cherished for a strict observation of the Sabbath; yet, six or seven of the people having, in the beginning of harvest, got in some early parcels of grain, united in setting the mill agoing, that they might have meal for immediate use. The session were under the necessity of taking cognisance of this breach of the Lord's day. And the miller having stated to them, "that he never set on the mill on the Lord's day, but for the behoof of such people as represented to him that they could get *neither meal to buy nor borrow, and had none;*" and the people also having declared that they were in absolute want, the session found them not deserving of censure. Among this group of culprits, was Mr Alexander Nicol, at that time schoolmaster of this parish. He, at that time, was much regarded as a poet in this corner, and suffered the proverbial lot of that unfortunate race. He published two small volumes, chiefly in the Scottish dialect. The first called *Nature without Art*, and the other the *Rural Muse*. He was afterwards translated to Gollace.



belonging to this parish has ever been the subject of a criminal trial. One person only has emigrated to America. There is no record of any murder having happened in the parish; tradition mentions 1 suicide about 50 years ago. Belief in the power of spells and charms still prevails here in a great degree; they attribute power to them only in internal disorders, and some chronical diseases. A knowledge of them is confined to a few families. The recourse of the people to remedies of this kind is less to be wondered at, as they are always administered gratuitously, and many of them are at a distance from a regular practitioner in physic. It must be a considerable time before every species of superstition be eradicated from the minds of people, who consider every thing as sacred that has been sanctioned by the belief of their fathers.

*Curiosities and Antiquities.*—There is a water-fall at the head of a den, whose depth is about 50 or 60 feet perpendicular. This den continues for about half a mile, when it loses itself in the Carse of Gowrie, at the village of Baledgarno, in the parish of Inchtute. In this den Mr Gray, some years ago, attempted to open a copper-mine; but though he found some ore, it was not judged worth working. On the edge of this den, King Edgar of Scotland built a castle, to overawe a powerful body of robbers, who then infested the country. No vestige of the building now remains: a farm-house, built upon the site, still retains the name of the castle. Upon the top of a hill, called Glenny-law, are two cairns; and a few years ago there was another in the glebe, under which a few bones were found. These are said to have been raised in consequence of a battle between two powerful families, the Grays of Foulis and the Boyds of Pitkindie, in this parish, in which the latter were victorious. On the same hill is one of those circles,  
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called Druidical, consisting now only of seven stones. And in Stockmuir, about a mile from this one, there is another of nine stones; both have consisted of more; three or four have been taken from the first not long ago. In a few years, there will be no vestige of either. This last is situated just at the foot of Dunfinnan Hill, on which was the residence of the famous Macbeth. The site of his castle was admirably chosen for a place of defence, being a conical rising on the west end of the hill, almost inaccessible, except on one side. The excellence of its situation had before pointed it out to Kenneth III. and other Kings, as a secure place of residence. The site of the castle is within the parish of Collace.—Upon the top of King's-seat, another part of the same hill, in this parish, there is the ruin of a circular inclosure, similar to Macbeth's castle, but much smaller. This, as it commanded a more extensive prospect than the castle itself, taking in beside a vast extent of country, great part of the sea-coast, from the mouth of the frith of Forth to the South Esk, probably was a watch-tower or out-post; and, from this circumstance, had received its name. So prevalent is the notion, that all great achievements in former times, were performed by men of superior size and strength, that Macbeth's castle, though the history of it is so well known, is called by no other name, among the vulgar, than the Giants House.



## NUMBER XI.

## PARISH OF BIRNIE,

(COUNTY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY  
OF ELGIN.)

By the Rev. Mr JOSEPH ANDERSON.

*Name, Extent, &c.*

THIS parish was named *Brenuth* about the beginning of the 13th century: A name probably derived from *Brae-nut*, *i. e.* "High land abounding in nuts;" for many hazle trees once grew upon the sides of the hills and banks of the rivulets, and the general appearance of the parish is hilly. The natives pronounce it *Burn-nigh*, *i. e.* "A village near the burn or river." This etymology is descriptive enough of the particular place now called *Birnie*. The remotest house is 7 miles from Elgin, where the post goes thrice east and west every week. The figure of the parish is irregular, but comes nearest to an oval shape; the distance from the N. to the S. extremity being about 5 miles, and from the E. to the W. about 2.

*Surface and Soil.*—The greatest part of the surface consisting of several high hills covered with heath, makes in general



neral a bleak rugged appearance ; the cultivated soil, however, in the valleys, and on the sides of hills, and the several falls of water in the rocky channel of the rivulets, have formed some beautifully diversified scenes. The uncultivated soil consists of moor and peat-moss, with some interjacent plots of green pasture. The arable land in general is sandy, shallow, stony and steep, lying either on a bed of rock, or of compacted gravel. Some fields contiguous to the Loffie, consist of loam either upon a clayish or sandy bed. Several plots of a mossy and moory nature are to be found both among the high and low lands.

*Rivulets, &c.*—The parish is adorned with the three rivulets of Lennock, Barden and Rushcroock, which flow into the river Loffie. The Loffie taking its rise in the parish of Ediakillie, and gliding through Dallas, begins at its confluence with the burn of Lennock, to run by part of the west side, and then through the north end of this parish, and after a course of about 18 miles from its origin to its mouth, flows into the sea at the harbour of Loffie-mouth. The river abounds in burn trouts and eels. Some salmon, finnacs \*, and white trouts swim up the river about Lammass, which give fine diversion to the angler. The most remarkable inundations happened in the years 1768 and 1782. Three-fourths of the farm of Over-bogs have been destroyed by land floods, which have hurled from the hills an immense quantity of stones and sand, and left them upon that plain field, where the river sometimes parts into two or three streams.

*Climate.*—

\* Finnacs are a species of fish in colour and shape like a salmon. They weigh from 2 lb. to 4 lb. White trouts are of a less size, but of a whiter colour. They are supposed to be two species of sea trouts. In April, shoals of the fry of each species swim down to the sea, from which they do not return sooner than July.



*Climate.*—The air is pure along the banks of the Loffie, but rather moist among the hills. They rise to a considerable height above the Loffie, and attract more showers than the low land. The inhabitants, however, in each of these places, are equally healthful, and free from any disorders, but such as are common all over this country.

*Minerals, Trees, Animals, &c.*—A large chain of rocks extend east and west through the middle of the parish. The greatest part of the country houses are built with moor stones, which abound in every hill. Some strata of free-stone, of slate and limestone, have been lately discovered. The freestone and slate have been used in repairing the church and manse. There are some oak, birch, hazle, ash, and plane trees; but they are not sufficient for supplying the implements of husbandry. Some large trunks of oak and fir are dug out of the mosses. Of these the inhabitants make very strong couples and lath for their houses. Fruit trees are scarce. The shrubs of broom, furze, juniper, sloes, hips and brambles, are innumerable. The water-lilly is the only herb, which perhaps is peculiar to this parish, it grows in the Gedloch. Moorfowl, partridge and hare are the principal game. The Earl of Moray, as tradition relates, used often to hunt and shoot on these hills. That he might have accommodation during the sporting season, he allotted a croft of land to the vintner, and another to the blacksmith; for which the one paid a rose, and the other a horse shoe, yearly, if required. The crofts still retain the names of Brewer's-croft and Smithy-croft. The lapwing appears in March, the cuckoo in April, and the swallow in May; they all begin to disappear about the end of summer.



## Agriculture, &amp;c.

|                                                                               |         |   |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|---|------|
| Number of acres in Scotch measure,                                            | -       | - | 5000 |
| ———— ————— arable,                                                            | -       | - | 850  |
| ———— of which under oats,                                                     | -       | - | 450  |
| ———— ————— under bear and barley,                                             | -       | - | 200  |
| ———— ————— under wheat, rye and pease,                                        | -       | - | 40   |
| ———— ————— under ley or natural grafs,                                        | -       | - | 120  |
| ———— ————— under clover and rye-grafs, turnip,<br>potatoes, flax and cabbage, | -       | - | 40   |
| Total value of produce at L. 3 the acre,                                      | L. 2550 | 0 | 0    |

|                                            |        |    |   |
|--------------------------------------------|--------|----|---|
| Number of horses 140, valued at L. 4 each, | L. 560 | 0  | 0 |
| ———— — cattle 360, at L. 3 each,           | 1080   | 0  | 0 |
| ———— — sheep 1500, at 5s. each,            | 375    | 0  | 0 |
| ———— — fwine 5, at 15s. each,              | 3      | 15 | 0 |

|                                                 |   |         |     |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|---------|-----|---------|
| Total value of live flock,                      | - | L. 2018 | 15  | 0       |
| Valued rent in Scotch money,                    | - | L. 734  | 13  | 6       |
| Real rent (1791,) in Sterling,                  | - | -       | 360 | 0 0     |
| Feu-duty payable to the Earl of Moray, bolls 8, |   |         | 1   | 4 2     |
| And bishops rents,                              | - | -       | -   | 3 10 10 |

|                                                       |   |   |     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Number of farms above L. 50 yearly,                   | - | - | 2   |
| ———— — ditto under L. 50,                             | - | - | 40  |
| ———— — grafs farms possessed by non-residing tenants, | - | - | 2   |
| ———— — carts,                                         | - | - | 100 |
| ———— — ploughs,                                       | - | - | 45  |

Wheat and rye are sown in November. Several attempts have been made to prevent *smut* in wheat without success. By a few recent experiments, however, there is ground to think that smut may be prevented by drying the feed wheat on a kiln with a slow fire of peats. Ten firlots of wheat may be reduced by the heat to about eight. No-  
thing



thing would be more agreeable than to hear that others are equally fortunate in making similar experiments.—Oats and pease are sown from the 13th of March to the middle of April; barley from the middle of April to the beginning of June; turnip seed from the 25th of June to the middle of July.—Harvest begins about the 12th of September, and ends about six weeks afterward.

The late Earl of Findlater and Seafield, a nobleman of distinguished character, induced his tenants to make considerable improvements in agriculture, by encouraging them to fallow their fields, to sow grass and turnip seeds, and plant potatoes. All which are obviously of great advantage to the farmer. He promoted also the manufacture of flax and wool, by giving spinning wheels to the farmers wives and daughters. They now manufacture the whole of the wool of their own sheep. Of a stone of wool they make from 36 to 40 ells of excellent plaiding, which they sell for about 1s. the ell. When they have done with manufacturing the wool, since the soil does not produce flax to perfection, they employ themselves in spinning flax imported by the merchants in the neighbourhood, who allow them 3d. for each hank of the coarsest, and 6d. for each hank of the finest yarn which they spin.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 525.—The numbers in 1781 were 460; in 1791, were 402. To explain the decrease, besides 24 persons who have emigrated to America, two farms are possessed by tenants who do not reside in the parish, for the purpose of pasture, where 4 tenants formerly lived. Besides there are 4 tenants who possess as much land as 8 did before. There were 6 heritors in 1766, since that period the Earl of Findlater has purchased all the lands except a croft of about 5 acres.

*Average*



|                            |        |                      |       |
|----------------------------|--------|----------------------|-------|
| Average of births for      |        | Members of the Esta- |       |
| 8 years preced. 1791,      | 9      | blished Church,      | - 400 |
| Ditto of deaths, ditto,    | 8      | Seceders,            | - - 2 |
| Ditto of marriages, ditto, | 2      | Schoolmaster,        | - - 1 |
| Under 10 years of age,     | 101    | Young persons taught |       |
| — 20, - - -                | 85     | to read and write,   | 16    |
| — 50, - - -                | 113    | Ditto, taught Latin, | 4     |
| — 70, - - -                | 85     | Weavers,             | - - 8 |
| — 90, - - -                | 16     | Carpenters,          | - - 2 |
| — 100, - - -               | 2      | Blacksmith,          | - - 1 |
| Houses inhabited,          | - 85   | Shoemakers,          | - - 6 |
| Married persons,           | - 128  | Tailors,             | - - 4 |
| Average children from      |        | Miller,              | - - 1 |
| each marriage,             | - 5    | Day-labourers,       | - - 2 |
| Widowers,                  | - - 10 | Male farm-servants,  | - 22  |
| Widows,                    | - - 20 | Female ditto,        | - 17  |

The farms in general being of small extent, are managed by the tenants themselves, and their children. They only need the assistance of reapers in harvest.

*Stipend, Church, Poor, &c.*—The money stipend is L. 41, 16s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling; the victual, 18 bolls 2 pecks 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  lippies bear; and, 20 bolls 1 firloft 3 pecks 1 lippie oat-meal. Patron, the Earl of Moray. The glebe, grass inclosure, and garden, contain about 9 acres. The church, built with hewn freestone, consists of a nave and choir. Part of the walls was repaired in 1734, as appears from the date on the bell-house. The late Mr Shaw, a learned and respectable clergyman of this presbytery, who published the history of this province in 1775, says, that it is probable, that the bishop's first cathedral in this diocese was situated in Birnie, and that Simeon de Tonei, one of the bishops of Moray, was buried in Birnie in 1184. It is held in great veneration



tion by many in this county. They still, in some measure, entertain a superstitious conceit, that prayers there offered up three several Sabbaths will surely be heard. Inso-much that when a person is indisposed, or of bad behaviour, this common saying obtains, ‘ You have need to be prayed for thrice in the church of Birnie, that you may either end or mend.’

There are 18 poor now inrolled, who have nothing to depend upon for their supply but the weekly voluntary collections, and a share of a mortification, which amount only to about L. 7 a-year. That sum is distributed among them every year, and goes but a short way towards supplying their wants. The aged and infirm, therefore, must travel beyond the bounds of the parish, and implore alms from the charitable. It is remarkable, however, that 20 years ago, there was but one common beggar in the parish. He was blind, and led from door to door. To the poor who are not able to work, nor go from home, the parishioners prove their charitable disposition, by putting some meal into bags, hung up in the mill, for the purpose of their relief, when they are grinding their corn there, or by sending them at other times such quantities of meal and of fuel as they can spare.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The tallest man in the parish is 6 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The general size of the people is supposed to be  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet.—The year 1782 was very remarkable for the lateness and coldness of the harvest, which only began the 15th October that year. At a moderate computation, one half of the corn was damaged by the frost and heavy falls of snow. The scarcity and high price of meal that ensued was truly alarming; and had not Providence put a stop to hostilities in America and Europe, and given the British Parliament time to mind the state of



North Britain at that period, thousands must have perished for want of bread. Happily, in consequence of some supply of meal from Government, and by importing corn and meal from the Continent of Europe, none died for want of the necessary means of subsistence. At that time potatoes were often used in place of bread by many. A family, consisting of 9 persons, had nothing else to eat for a whole week, and yet they looked pretty well.—There is plenty of heath, furze, broom, turf, and peat. Peats are the best fuel. A great many, besides the parishioners, are supplied with peats from the mosses of Birnie. Two hundred loads of peats are requisite to keep a good fire in a room, and another in the kitchen, for a year. They cannot be cast, dried, and carried home, at the distance of 4 miles, for less than 1 s. the load.—The people are industrious, temperate, and cheerful, though poor. Music is their favourite diversion. Some of them can play on the bagpipe, and others on the violin. Ferocious manners have given place to civilized. There has been no instance of suicide or murder during the last 26 years. Neither has any one been banished, or suffered capital punishment. They speak English, in the Scotch dialect. It is remarkable in this, as well as in other parishes of this county, that when the consonants *r* and *s* meet, as in the words *horse*, *curse*, &c. the letter *r* is quiescent, and the common people pronounce these words as if they were written *hoss*, *cuss* \*.

*Antiquities and Natural Curiosities.*—A stone baptistery, and an old bell, made of a mixture of silver and copper, of  
an

\* As to the price of grain, and other provisions, for 10 years preceding 1791, the price of a boll of wheat, on an average, is L. 1; of barley, 16 s.; of oats and oat-meal, 14 s. 6 d.; of pease and barley meal, 13 s. 4 d.; of the best beef, mutton, veal, pork, and salmon, 3 d. the pound; of a hen, 7 d.; of a chicken, 3 d.; of a pigeon, 1 d.; of a dozen of haddocks, 6 d.



an oblong figure, named the *coronach*, are still kept as the remains of antiquity. Tradition relates that the bell was made at Rome, and consecrated by the Pope.—The *bible-stone*, having the figure of a book distinctly engraven, lying about a mile east from the church, on the side of the road leading from Birnie to Rothes, has probably been placed there as a land-mark.—The Cairn of Killforeman, of a conical figure, 300 feet in circumference at the base, has been probably placed over the remains of a brave man, whose exploits are now forgotten.—The cave in the middle of a steep high rock, near the Gedloch, was, according to tradition, haunted about 100 years ago by a gang of armed ruffians, who had no visible way of obtaining the means of subsistence, but by theft and robbery. The happy constitution we now enjoy has suppressed all such lawless banditti.—All who have seen the falls of water in the Lin of the Shoggle, and the Eats of Glenlaterach, much admire them, and the adjacent wilds. There is about 20 feet of a fall of water in each of these places.—Some vestiges of an incampment can be traced in a well-aired dry situation, watered on the west side by the burn of Barden, and fortified on the E. and N. by a valley. It commands a prospect of the Moray Frith, from Speymouth to Cromarty Bay. Probably the Danes, after invading this part of the country, had a camp there.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The pasture for cattle and sheep annexed to the several farms in the Highlands, is of great advantage to the tenants; but the arable land being much exposed to the north, the corn growing there is late in ripening, and frequently damaged by frost.—From the winter solstice to the vernal equinox, heavy falls of snow often cover the face of the earth, and deprive the sheep of convenient pasture. They, having nothing but  
straw



straw to eat in the folds, become lean and feeble; infomuch, that when the ewes yean, many lambs die; because their dams have not milk enough for them. The owners would therefore do well to provide a sufficient quantity of turnip and hay for the ewes.—Materials for the implements of agriculture are scarce. An ash tree costs the artificer himself from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. Sterling the foot. It would therefore be equally advantageous to the proprietors and tenants, that such an extent of waste ground were inclosed, and planted with ash, birch, and alder, as might furnish the farmer with every necessary utensil of timber.

NUM.



NUMBER XII.

PARISH OF KILMORY,

(ISLE OF ARRAN, COUNTY OF BUTE, SYNOD OF ARGYLE, PRESBYTERY OF KINTYRE.)

By the Rev. Mr JOHN HAMILTON.

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*Origin of the Names Arran, Kilmory, &c.*

TRADITION says, that the name *Arran* is derived from a plat of ground in the north end of the island, where a battle was fought by Fin or Fingal, (the chief of the giants,) who inhabited this island, with Manus, the King of Swedland's son, where was a great slaughter. Fingal being conqueror, the plat of ground was called in Gaelic by a name which literally signifies, "Fin's slaughter." *Ar* and *Fin* being joined, make the name in Gaelic to be, in the genitive, *Ar-fbin*, or the "Slaughter of Fin," which by degrees was written *Arran*.—*Kilmory* signifies, in Gaelic, "St Mary's Chapel," or in Gaelic itself, *Cill Mhuire*. The island of Arran contains only two parishes, Kilmory and Kilbride. Kilmory parish extends 30 miles in a semicircular form, from Dippin on the south



South-east, to Lochrannza, in the north extreme of Arran. It is bounded on the S. E. S. W. and N. W. by the sea; and in the narrowest place is only 6 miles from Kintyre; on the N. E. by a spacious central common moor, where the horses and sheep of the island range promiscuously in summer.—The surface of the parish is uneven and hilly; the soil is various, partly gravelish, clay, and mossy, and is capable of producing light crops of barley, oats, (in some places,) pease, and flax only for private use; but potatoes are planted in every farm, and are the general food of the people.

*Diseases.*—The diseases here, are cancers, rheums, fevers brought from other countries, and a great death of new-born infants, by the falling down of the jaws; and some women die in childbed, both which last two are attributed to the unskilfulness of midwives, who venture upon the practice from natural courage, without necessary and proper knowledge, there being none duly qualified in the island. The oldest man now living in the parish is 88, a few more have turned 80, and there has been an instance of 1 who reached 95.

*Rivers, Lochs or Lakes.*—The burns here, which scarce deserve the name of rivers, have, some of them, their source from lochs or lakes in the mountains, and some from numberless springs; after a short and rapid course they empty themselves into the sea; they abound with fine trouts, and some salmon. There are 3 lochs or lakes; the principal of which is Earfay loch, in the west of the island, which abounds with trouts of different sizes, and fine salmon, which are caught by cruives and draught-lines.

*Caves.*—



*Caves.*—There are several natural caves, the principal, and which highly excites the curiosity of strangers of all ranks, is one in the west of the island, opposite to Campbelltown, called the King's Cove, because, as tradition affirms, King Robert de Bruce and his retinue lodged in it for some time, when taking shelter in retired places, before his defeat of John Baliol, and accession to the throne of Scotland. It is 40 yards long, 16 broad, and about 20 high, in which are several engravings and antique figures; seemingly a coat of arms, and forms of weapons are cut in the rock; a little within the entry are the letters M. D. R. The cave is so spacious, that sermons have been preached in it to some hundreds of hearers at different times. About 2 miles south from it is another cave, which could contain 200 persons; but nothing else remarkable in it.

*Hills and Sea Coast.*—The highest hill is *Beinnbharbhionn*, or the "Mountain of the white top," so called, from its being covered a great part of the year with snow; it stands in the N. W. part of the island, and is supposed to be 2 miles high; but the adjacent mountain called *Goatfield*, though not quite so high, is yet more remarkable, as it produces brilliant stones. The sea-coast, especially in the E. and S. part of the parish, is a proud and very inhospitable shore; but towards the W. and N. somewhat less so, excepting a large sunken rock in the W. S. W. part of the parish, almost opposite to Campbelltown, called the Iron Rock; it lies considerably off the land, and has proved detrimental to many vessels.

*Light House.*—In the isle Pladday, a mile off the land, in the east part of the parish, a light house has lately been erected, with two different lights, to distinguish it in the night



night from those on the Mulls of Kintyre, Galloway, and Cumbray.

*Fish.*—The sea-coast abounds with fish of different kinds, such as herring, salmon, skate, cod, ling, lythe, flounder, haddock, whiting, &c. but the inhabitants have not acquired the art of being very beneficial to themselves in fishing any of these but herring. There is also in these seas a huge fish, called Sail-fish, which is caught by sticking them with sharp-edged instruments, of the harpoon kind; they are productive of good quantities of oil; but the fishermen must be dexterous when about to stick the fish, as the attempt is sometimes dangerous.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor.*—In this parish are two places of worship, exclusive of that occupied by the catechist in the north-end of the island. The principal parochial kirk is at Kilmory, in the south end of the island, rebuilt in 1785, with Gothic windows, and 1 gallery. The other place, called Shikken, is 6 computed miles westward. The Duke of Hamilton is patron, and sole proprietor, excepting two farms. The stipend is L. 70, exclusive of a manse and glebe.—There are two parochial schools. The salary allowed to the principal is L. 50 Scots, the half of which is paid by the Duke of Hamilton, and the other by the tenants of the district. To the other school is allowed L. 40 Scots, paid also in halves, as aforesaid. The parish is divided into 2 parochial districts; each of the schoolmasters has in his own district, 1 s. for marriage, 6 d. for baptism, and L. 6 Scots each for session-clerkship; their number of scholars may be 50 each, more or less; but there are also many petty schools. The wages are invariably 1 s. the quarter for reading, 1 s. 6 d. for writing, and 2 s. 6 d. for arithmetic.

The



The number of poor on the parish-roll is 40, who are supplied by the weekly collections as often as the fund admits; but which is quite inadequate to their need. Such therefore of them as can go about, receive alms from the country people; and those who are decrepit or confined to bed, are, in addition to the surplus received from the session, supported by country charity sent to them; for the people, according to their abilities, are very charitable, and attentive to real indigence.

*Exports.*—Several hundreds of black cattle are annually exported to Ayrshire; they are bought up by different persons, and ferried in every month from May to December; so that their number cannot easily be ascertained. A considerable quantity of barley is also exported to Greenock, Saltcoats, Irvine, Ayr, and Campbeltown; but 3 licensed distillers have lately been erected in the island, which will exhaust a great part of the barley that can henceforth be spared. Also kelp is manufactured here, and exported, perhaps 60 tons in the year. They also export small quantities of mutton, and linen yarn, by all which commodities, they are enabled, in addition to industry and œconomy, to pay their rent, and answer the other exigencies of their families. But as the island breeds no horses, the people are obliged to buy at dear rates, in Argyleshire, and other places; they also frequently buy sheep for breed in Ayrshire, as in stormy snowy winters many of their sheep die.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The chief advantages are good water and pure air; which are counterbalanced by many disadvantages. There are in this parish no safe harbours, by which many real losses are sustained; expense, loss of time, and sometimes loss of lives and property, attend the unavoidable necessity of having recourse to extramaritime markets,



markets, both to sell what they can spare, and buy the many things they need.

*Language.*—The mother tongue is the Gaelic, which is universally spoken; yet persons advanced in years understand the English language tolerably; they acquire it by intercourse with other countries, and are greatly assisted by having the organs of speech formed in their youth, it being the first language they are taught to read.

*Migratory Birds, and Amphibious Animals.*—We have transient visits of the swan in winter, the fieldfare in time of snow, and the green plover in May and June, &c.—The otter, an agile animal, and of the canine form, often resorts here; its skin fetches a good price, and notwithstanding his vigilance, he sometimes falls a prey to the marksman; also the seal, although seldom; its skin is likewise valuable.

*Agriculture, &c.*—There are in this parish 440 horses, 1388 cows, 2085 sheep, 102 goats. There are sown 1320 bolls oats, 190 bolls barley, 330 bolls potatoes, 18 bolls pease, 9 bolls flax-seed. The old Scotch plough is generally used here, drawn by 4 horses. The nature of the soil is such, that they cannot begin early to till, and can have time only to till, at an average, at the rate of about 14 bolls the plough.—The rent of the parish is L. 2398 a-year.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers then were 2277, at present there are in the whole of Kilnory 3259; but these are not all supported by the produce and internal industry of the parish, many of the young people go to service to the neighbouring countries, especially Ayrshire; many of the young men are employed



ed in the fisheries; some in the Revenue cutters, and Excise yachts; and in time of war many are employed in the Royal navy, and a great number in all the different branches of British trade.—From Dippin to Earfay, (exclusive of what is from Earfay to Lochranza, and which is under the charge of a chatechist,) there have been in the course of the year 1791, 71 baptisms, and 21 marriages. Dippin is 16 miles from Earfay; Earfay 14 from Lochranza. No bill of mortality kept.

NUM.



## N U M B E R XIII.

PARISH OF ST ANDREW'S, LHANBRYD,

(COUNTY OF ELGIN, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY  
OF ELGIN.)*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM LESLIE.**Geography and Natural History.*

**L**HANBRYD, signifying in the original, " St Bridget's Church," was united to St Andrew's, to which last, two other chapels had also been joined before the Reformation. This parish measures about 3 English miles from W. to E. along the highway from Elgin to Spey; and from S. to N. about 4, exclusive of an improvement in the hill 1 mile distant, on the S. disjoined by an intervening skirt of the parish of Elgin, to which it pertains. It was originally the moor where the cattle were collected for drawing part of the teinds of both parishes, before they were converted into money, from which it retains the name of *Teindland*; and on account of its distance from Elgin, the inhabitants have in general ranked themselves in this parish. The general appearance of the country is a plain, in which several low hills rise, so arranged as to appear connected  
with



with each other, and all covered with corn or grafs, or with plantations of wood. The foil in general is sandy, yet fertile where it is low and damp. The air is healthful and dry; not productive of any prevalent diftemper; although the inhabitants are not diftinguifhed for longevity. There is one mineral fpring in the Teindland, of a ftrong chalybeate kind, as yet of no celebrity; though it has given relief to all who have made proper trial of its effects. There are three lakes on the confines of the parifh; the largeft, that of Spynie from 4 to 6 feet of water on a deep rich mould, inviting its proprietors to drain off its shallow water. Several years ago, one of them carried on this operation at a confiderable expenfe, and with the moft encouraging profpects; but when he had nearly completed the improvement of the old canal, he was retarded by a litigation before the Court of Seflion, with his neighbour on the other fide of the lake, who wifhed to retain all the water. This oppofition being at laft unfuccefsful, the undertaking was completed; by which, although not effectual, many acres were regained, where the courfe of ridges, the formation of artificial roads, and every token of ancient and unknown cultivation, moft evidently and unexpectedly appeared. The neighbouring loch of Cots, originally a part of that of Spynie, at firft a ftrait of the ocean, defcribed in the chartulary of Moray as a bay, in the 13th century, is on the fame level, and offers equal encouragement to drain off its water, in proportion to its extent; and being fupported by two confiderable rivulets, the mouth of the canal would afford a profitable falmon-fifhing. Lochnabee, in the S. E. corner of the parifh, is about 3 miles in circumference, and has an ifland covered with wood. There is a foreft round this lake planted by the Earl of Fife, fo extenfive and thriving, as to have already induced a fcore or two of red deer to make their refidence in its cover. Thefe lakes abound  
with



with trout, eel and pike, with a great variety of wild ducks, and at one season of the year with wild-geese and swans; but neither the proprietors, nor their tenants, avail themselves in any degree whatever of these advantages. The only river is Loflie, which, entering the parish at the N. W. corner, divides it there from the town of Elgin, and shaping its course in the form of a parabola, leaves it near the sea at the north, including within the parabola about one third of what was the parish of St Andrew's; having its church in the apex, at which there is a substantial timber bridge\*.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers then were 690. The number of inhabitants was considerably greater than now about 30 years ago. Several farms which were each possessed by 10 or 16 families, are now let to one man; and of late several are occupied by inhabitants of the town of Elgin, and by farmers of other parishes, some of whom have no resident servant, and others only one or two, where numerous families dwelt. At present, the number is 777, including the improvement of Teindland, making 140 families, of which 106 are wedded pairs; the number of males 345; females 412. The yearly average of births is 16, which must be multiplied by 48 or 50, in order to produce the population; although a note in the 17th chapter of Gibbon's History of the Roman empire,

\* A great part of St Andrew's is exposed to land-floods, by the overflow of Lofley on both sides. The highest now remembered was in 1768; a very destructive one in 1782; and much damage was done by two, during the harvest of 1789. This calamity might be prevented at no great expense, by a little concert among the proprietors, and taking out the dam of a mill, which has no thirlage, and gives but a trifle of rent. The extent of the sea-coast is only about one mile; a low sandy shore, pertaining to one farm; upon which ordinary tides rise from 7 to 8 feet perpendicular; at present it affords nothing but an inconsiderable quantity of seaweed for manure.



empire, bears, "That the annual proportion of births to the whole people, is about 1 to 26 in the province of French Hainault." The number of Seceders is 34, Methodists 7, Episcopalians 2, 736 may be accounted of the Established Church, although nearly 30 of them prefer more generally a kind independent preacher, supported by the magistrates and elders of Elgin \*.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Grain, eatable roots, and the whole class of cultivated brassica, the ordinary fruits, and almost every tree known in Scotland, are raised in the parish, which has always produced more grain than requisite for the inhabitants. The victual-rents disposed of by the proprietors to Highland counties of crop 1782, greatly overbalanced the supply of meal granted to the poor that year by the State. Since the excise on tanning leather obliged the poorer families to give up making their own shoes, no hemp has been cultivated; but there is still flax raised, though only for domestic accommodation. There are 252 horses, each pair in general managing a plough; 750 black cattle, a very small number of which are labouring oxen,

a

\* This meeting was established about 20 years ago, by one of the ministers of Elgin, who was prejudiced against the presentee appointed for his colleague; for the support of which, he bequeathed a capital of L. 100 Sterling. They assemble in an old edifice on the end of the church, built for the week-day worship of the town's people, in compliance with their prejudice for holydays, on the abolition of Episcopacy. The managers let such seats as have not been claimed; but a subscription by the hearers is also requisite for the support of the preacher, who has little other connexion with the Church, but that he must be licensed by a presbytery of the Synod of Ross: While the people of this meeting are content with the ministration of their respective parishes, unless in the article of ordinary public worship, which some attend from all quarters, at the distance of 10 or 16 miles.



a few pairs only being employed in the plough and wagon; there are 1060 sheep, a small number of which are accounted here of the Bakewell breed. They are without horns, and have long wool; the fleece weighs from 7 to 12 pounds; about a fifth part are of the Linton breed, the rest are a white faced breed, that have always been in the country, much diminished in bulk by scanty pasture; as yet there is no idea of improving the quality of the wool.—Tenants of the rank of gentlemen have all their grafs of sown clovers, rye and rib grafs; the poor tenants depend on natural ley-grafs, with a patch of clover in their gardens. The rent by the acre on most farms is varied every year, by the difference of the price of grain, of which a portion of the rent of every farm has been in general paid. When grain sells at 14 s. or 15 s. the boll, the average rent by the acre is about 15 s.; but a great proportion of almost every farm can be only valued at 5 s. the acre; and a part of each, if let separately, would bring a guinea the acre. There being little or no common pasture pertaining to any farm, the land, considering the quantity of grain produced from the acre, must be reckoned high rented.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The possessors of the landed property are 7. The Earl of Fife has the whole of what was the parish of Lhanbryd, and the ancient barony of Kilmalemnock, in St Andrew's; the Earl of Findlater holds Linkwood and Linksfield, in the west; the Hon. George Duff, Barmickity, in the middle of the parish; John Brander, Esq; holds Pitgaveny, in the north; William King, Esq; has Newmill, and the lands in the vicinity of Elgin; and John Innes, Esq; writer to the Signet, has Dunkinty, towards the east; and a small farm was, in the last generation, given by Gordon of Cairnfield, for the support of  
the



the Episcopal chapel in Elgin.—The only language of the parish is Scots. The names of the places, in general, are of that language; such as Hornhead, Hairstones, Hollow-wood, and Cockstown. These are beauties peculiar to this language, in energy, brevity, and animation; which would be more natural ornaments in the English tongue, than any of its exotic importations. These, therefore, as well as the Scoticisms, might be also collected and published.—The people, over all this country, are most strictly æconomical, and as little expensive or luxurious as possible. They are disposed to every kind of humane and generous action, as much as their circumstances will admit of. The lower rank of farmers and labourers, though not content perhaps with their situation, and though they do not enjoy all the comforts of life, yet do not complain more than their opulent neighbours. There are numbers of them, however, who are generally without small beer and milk, and almost none of them have meat, butter, cheese or spirits, and all their poultry and eggs are sold in the Elgin market. Their dress, furniture and habitations are still of the cheapest kinds which can be procured. They use no candles; and urine they substitute for soap. Funerals are conducted without expence; there is no company or dancing on the occasion of a wedding; nor at baptisms, in general, is there any kind of entertainment. Almost the only pleasure they indulge in, is meeting occasionally, to the number of 15 or 25, for the purpose of conversing about some of the abstrusest doctrines of Calvinism, in which they display their eloquence in the only kind of spouting of which they have any notion, that of a theological oration and a prayer, varied by occasional reflections on the degeneracy and oppressions of the age. It is probable, the ancestors of the present generation of peasants possessed at no period, a much larger stock of knowledge; but since, by the altera-



tion of the times, the salaries of schoolmasters can in no way support a family, that office has fallen altogether into the hands of mere school-boys, which they abandon as soon as their own education is supposed to be completed, or into that of bankrupt tenants, still less qualified for the duties of it. So that a thicker cloud of ignorance must be settling over the lower ranks of people, than that which covered their fathers. And while the reputation for learning, which Scotland has so long supported among the nations, must in a short time be lost, those numbers, who, by means of that mediocrity of literature acquired in the parish schools, rose from the lowest stations of life to *merit, wealth, and rank*, must be henceforth chained down, hopeless and inglorious, to the miserable sphere of their humble birth. Parish schools are peculiar to Scotland. The idea of this institution was originally suggested as proper for reconciling the minds of the people to the administration of Charles I. And, in a similar view, they were established in their present form by the first Parliament of King William. For several generations, while the example of country gentlemen, and the ability of schoolmasters, supported the labours of ministers, the schoolmaster's connexion in the parish being equally permanent, and their learning in general on a respectable par, the people were preserved loyal to Government, and steady to the Church; but after the gentlemen withdrew their countenance, and slighted the ordinances of their national religion, and the office of schoolmaster became inefficient, by the diminished value of its appointment, the ministers were wholly unsupported, the people blind to the signal advantages of their Government, and feeling the pressure of its manifold exactions; while their minds, relating both to Church and State, as much perverted now by vagrants in the character of dissenting preachers, as they were then by trafficking priests, are, in as great a degree, disposed for



for innovation, if it should elsewhere spring up, as in any former age; with this difference, that the band of religion which tied the people so strongly to their superiors, being now broken, they would be very little controlled by their influence. Perhaps it would be wise, therefore, in the State, to augment the living of schoolmasters to the same value which it comparatively bore in the reign of William; which would not at present require, in all, above L. 5000 Sterling a year, which might be transmitted to the Sheriffs, or paid by the Collectors of Excise.

By these means the condition of the kingdom would be meliorated; for while some knowledge of writing and arithmetic is now indispensable to every mechanic, mason, carpenter, weaver and tailor, nothing can be more absurd than to allege, that a man makes a better farmer, is more content with his situation, or a more useful member of society, because he can neither read or write; on the contrary, ignorance of itself occasions discontent, and exposes those who are under its gloom to be more easily misled by the crafty, which the members of every mob, and the smallest observation of the sentiments of that condition sufficiently demonstrate. The parish having no advantages nor disadvantages peculiar to itself, the means by which its condition might be meliorated, would also influence that of all the country. Granting long leases, has, in general, been accounted among the means of meliorating the condition of tenants, and of improving the country; yet their being no other advantage from this, but that the tenant is encouraged to improve by the certainty of reaping its profit, it would be easy, by the conditions of the lease, to give equal encouragement for temporary or permanent improvement, if the tenant should be removed in such circumstances, as to give the landlord the profits of it. On most farms there are corners inaccessible to the plough, the bank of a ditch,  
or



or the winding margin of a brook, where trees would be ornamental, and promote the growth of grass, by their shade and their shelter. The tenant at present has seldom any encouragement to plant such spots, as, by act of Parliament, all the growing timber is the sole property of the landlord. But were some arrangement made between the landlord and the tenant, to encourage the latter, either to plant such spots himself, or to take care of the trees therein planted, every farm, in the course of the rising generation, would be provided with timber sufficient for its own accommodation.—For many years past the agricultural industry of this part of the country has been considerably discouraged, by the difficulty of procuring and managing farm-servants, occasioned by an emigration of many of that rank to the manufacturing and commercial places of the south; while, by a pretty widely extended combination among themselves, they have raised their wages here, as high as in any part of the kingdom, it is certain there is less work accomplished by equal numbers. They insist on being regulated in all circumstances, by the fashion or practice of other farms, which themselves have by this means established; and if any person contends any particular with them, he thereby incurs the imputation of being a bad master, and must thereupon, at the next term, give an advance of wages, or some concession still more humiliating. How far this may or does affect the land-rent, is not ascertained, nor have the gentlemen of the country yet felt the evil; an additional servant or two is of little consequence to them, and their influence secures in general a preference to the most discreet, so that they rather foster than check the extravagance. It would, nevertheless, be proper in them to extend their care a little to the concerns, in this respect, of their poorer neighbours, and to the state of the country in general; and it is yet practicable, by a little concert among them,



them, gradually and silently, to introduce practices more beneficial to all concerned.—This country suffers also somewhat from a spirit of litigation, which the landholders seem rather to foment, than take any care to suppress; for having universally relinquished their legal ancient privilege of warning out tenants by their own authority, great numbers are yearly brought together in the sheriff-court, upon an act only of the Court of Session, to see themselves decreed to remove, where they acquire notions concerning the rights of men, no way favourable to industry, concord or thrift. Besides, the depressing influence of the tax on water-born coal, which is above the sixth part of the price, this country moreover feels the partiality of the tax on Scots coal carried north of the Redhead, of which it now requires a considerable importation, and besides the freight, shore-dues, and other unavoidable expence of conveyance, this tax alone increases the original price at the pit one-fourth part by the ton\*.

This country in particular, and the whole island, would be greatly benefited by a bridge on the river Spey, at the ferry of Fochabers. The improved system of agriculture in sowing grass and other green crops, instead of the uninterrupted cultivation of corn, has naturally turned the attention of the people to the increase of black cattle. The county of Banff, and the adjoining parts of Aberdeenshire, where Banff is only 8 or 10 miles broad, are by climate

\* Numbers also in this country are mortified by another inconvenience. The ports of Findhorn, Lossie, and Spey, belong to the district of the Custom-house of Inverness. Besides the trouble of obtaining the clearance, on the arrival of every vessel, an express must be dispatched thither, before they can begin to unload; by which a delay of three days, besides much expence, is unnecessarily incurred. But no inconvenience could result from a deputation to proper officers at Elgin; yet the gentlemen of the country submit to this distress, with a patience and self-denial which at least does honour to their Christian resignation.



mate adapted to pasturage, therefore, during summer and autumn, cattle markets have been established in some place of that country every week; crossing the cattle over this rapid and generally unfordable river, and bringing home under the night such as may not be sold, is attended by a most forbidding inconvenience, which it is not necessary here particularly to describe. The application of lime as a manure has of late been practised in this country, and much greater quantities of it are now used in building than in any former age. Banffshire abounding in limestone and fuel, furnishes the whole quantity required for both purposes. Besides hard labour, and much time in loading and unloading the boat, the freight alone adds a fifth part to the price. How far Government may be interested in this bridge, needs not be here stated; but it may be observed, that experience hath now proved, that the opening of proper roads, has alone civilized and improved the rudest corners of the Highlands, while the forts which were erected there, and are supported at so great expense, have in this respect been found entirely nugatory; although they could not be intended for any other purpose in a country which, nature having interdicted from being the theatre of war, can only at any period exhibit the scene of a slight skirmish, or one short engagement.—The easy practicability, and the advantages of making a canal through the loch of Spynie, and the N. W. corner of the parish from Lossiemouth, to within a mile of Elgin, navigable without a lock for any vessel that can get into the harbour, might be pointed out.—But it only remains rather to suggest the advantage of establishing a corn-market similar to that of Haddington. The county, at an average, disposes of from 10,000 to 16,000 bolls, by the agency only of 3 or 4 persons, who, in general, purchase by commission from their correspondents in the south, and they alone are often able



able to fix the price for the year. Although the city of Edinburgh, and the distillers, may be supposed to purchase the whole grain of the Haddington market, yet, since the establishment of small stills in the north, it is evident the situation of this country would admit of such a weekly market on a small scale at Elgin, and it would require no great exertion of the ingenuity, or attention of the country gentlemen, to form and support an establishment so obviously patriotic.--Although the people of Teindland are at liberty to choose any church most convenient, they are bound to a mill in their own parish of Elgin, and besides it, there are 8 mills with which the parish is connected.—By the quantity of potato, and alterations in the mode of living, it is certain there is not so much meal consumed in the country as was formerly. The people in general murmur greatly on account of mill exactions and services; perhaps, therefore, it would be more advantageous for the proprietors of mills to apportion their present rent on the lands of their thirlage, than it may be at any future period, when this measure, according to the practice of more highly cultivated countries, may be universally adopted.



## NUMBER XIV.

## PARISH OF NEW DEER,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
DEER.)

*By the Rev. Mr HUGH TAYLOR.*

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*Name, Extent, &c.*

**N**EW DEER was once a part of the ancient parish of Deer: from which it was disjoined in the beginning of last century. It was first called *Auchbreddy*, from the field in which the church is situated; it had that name time immemorial; and which, like that of most places in the parish, evidently seems to be of Gaelic extraction. These parishes are now denominated *Old* and *New Deer*. The etymology of *Deer* is unknown, or at least uncertain; perhaps it may be a corruption from the Gaelic. This parish is perhaps one of the largest in the county. It is of an oblong form, extending from S. to N. 14 English miles; and 7 at a medium from E. to W. The church is pretty central, and is 30 miles distant from Aberdeen directly N.; 48 miles by Peterhead directly W. and 17 miles from Banff



Banff in a N. E. direction. There is one thing peculiar to its situation, the sea is described around it from S. E. to N. W. almost with a radius of 18 miles: so that it is nearly equidistant from all the different ports, along a sea-coast of more than 40 miles.

*Surface, Soil and Produce.*—The surface here, as also through the whole of Buchan, is pretty flat. There is scarcely a hill, or even a place that deserves to be called an eminence, in all the parish. A piece of rising ground, indeed, is situated about a mile N. from the church; from which there is an extensive, and, in summer, a very pleasant and variegated prospect. Towards the N. E. E. and S. E. the appearance, for 7 or 8 miles, is almost one continued corn field, interspersed with pieces of sown grass and turnip, and terminated by a gentle rise of the ground, in form of an amphitheatre. Turning westward, the surface is heath and moor, chequered with some straggling farms. Here also there is a view of many of the Highland hills 30 or 40 miles W.; and, in a clear day, a small peep of the sea at Peterhead. The public road from Aberdeen by Udney and Tarves, passing through this parish to the N. nearly divides it, and also forms a line of distinction between the different qualities of the soil. That part, which lies westward, is in general shallow, sandy and dry. A good deal of this is entirely barren, and inclines very much to heath. But, from the appearance of ridges in many places upon its surface, even this seems to have once been mostly under tillage: and it might be easily brought into cultivation again, by proper encouragement. On the east side of the road, the ground being lower, the soil is generally deeper, for the most part arable, in some places wet, in others, (particularly about the middle,) very dry, rich and fertile. But though this distinction holds true in a

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great measure, yet, in some places, the soil on one side of the road is very little different from what it is on the other. For moss abounds throughout the parish: and, where this is the case, the adjacent soil is invariably wet, and the mould of a black or hazelly colour. The principal crops are oats and barley-big, with some pease. Every farmer has also a field of turnip, from 1 to 6 acres, according to the extent of his farm. These are given to the cattle through the winter, and sometimes used in fattening them for the butcher. Potatoes and flax are also raised, but only in small quantities, and for private use. More articles of provision are produced, and manufactured in the parish, than it annually consumes. A considerable quantity of oats is made into meal, and sold to traders, who transport it by sea to every place of Scotland, where they can find a market. Butter and cheese are also in plenty here; and of great importance. Small farmers or subtenants, usually pay their rent by what of these they can afford to sell, after supplying their own family. Every merchant in the parish buys these articles, and sends them to market; generally at Leith and places adjoining to the Frith. Eggs too are purchased by them in considerable quantities, and shipped for the London market. But the rearing and sale of black cattle is perhaps more advantageous to the farmer, than any thing that has been mentioned.—Valued rent is L. 5159 : 6 : 10 Scots: real rent, including meal and money, about L. 3000 Sterling.

*Agriculture, &c.*—In point of improvement, this parish has undergone as sensible a change as most others. Roads, farms and houses, and the implements of husbandry, are so much ameliorated, that those, who were acquainted with it 30 years ago, declare they would scarcely know it to be the same place, had they been so long absent. When the present



present incumbent was settled in the year 1737, there was not a cart, but his own, in the parish: nor were there roads which could be travelled in many places. Then, and for many years after, there was but one carrier, who went weekly to Aberdeen with a horse and *packets*. Sometimes he even went with nothing but a *back creel*, and brought what merchandise and provisions were at the time necessary. Now, there is sufficient employment for 3 or 4 carriers, who go each with a cart and two horses. Burning, where the soil was susceptible of it, was the principal manure for raising corn: and many places wear the impression to this day. A kind of black bearded small oats was then principally cultivated: now there is hardly such a kind of grain in the parish. Liming was much used a few years ago; and, when necessary, can here be carried on at a moderate expense. But, although there is plenty of limestone and fuel in the parish, and a kiln for burning it on almost every farm and croft; yet the tenants are now obliged, in a great measure, to discontinue the practice. For it is found that lime, when applied in great quantity, or soon repeated, reduces their soil to a mere *caput mortuum*, producing little but thistles and other noxious weeds. Where barren ground is to be fertilized, or old ridges levelled and improved, the farmer still has recourse to it; and, when judiciously laid on, it is found to answer his most sanguine expectations. When made into a compost with earth and dung, it also makes an excellent kind of manure for ley and turnip land. This is generally prepared in summer on a piece of the field, for which it is designed, or as near it as possible. Most of the farms are inclosed, either with turf or stone fences. The farm houses are tolerably neat, and consist of one story. For the most part, they are built of stone and mortar, and checked with lime. Stob-thatching is now become pretty general,



general, and when well executed, makes a warm and durable roof. At present a spirit of industry and improvement pervades every rank, and would probably lead on to a more perfect and general knowledge of agriculture, had they longer leases; but the bad effects of short leases have been so clearly stated in other statistical accounts, that it is needless to enter upon a detail of them.

*State of Improvement in February 1793.*

[Each particular state being made out by two different farmers, who gave in a signed report.]

|                           | Ground in turnip of last crop. | Old sown grafs, proper for pasture. | New sown grafs, proper for hay. | Hay in stacks. | Ground inclosed, turf fences. | Ditto, earth, lined with stone. |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                           | Acres.                         | Do.                                 | Do.                             | Stones.        | Acres.                        | Do.                             |
| Nethermuir, - -           | 34                             | 121                                 | 128                             | 2718           | 100                           | 200                             |
| Culsh & Artamford, -      | 16                             | 30                                  | 100                             | 1000           | 240                           | 100                             |
| Drum & Auchmaliddy,       | 10                             | 3                                   | 25                              | 1100           | 12                            |                                 |
| Mickle & Little Auchridy, | 19                             | 60                                  | 29                              | 2480           | 280                           | 8                               |
| Cairnbanno & Auchmunyiel, | 10                             | 36                                  | 81                              | 970            | 52                            | 47                              |
| Whytehill & Brucklay,     | 37½                            | 178                                 | 68                              | 2250           | 151                           | 120                             |
| Gorbshill & Alathan, -    | 13                             | 55                                  | 20                              | 660            | 41                            |                                 |
| Savok & Auchnagat, -      | 16                             | 87                                  | 59                              | 7530           | 17                            | 162                             |
| Fedderat, - -             | 38                             | 86                                  | 100                             | 165            |                               |                                 |
| Totals,                   | 193½                           | 547                                 | 560                             | 18873          | 893                           | 637                             |

The above state comprehends the whole parish, except the lands of Oldmaud and Aflect, which, lying in the lower part of the parish, may be considered as equal to others of the like extent and rent; and the nearest to them in both these



these respects, are the lands of Culsh and Artamford. With respect to the inclosures, it is not pretended, that they are all sufficient fences; perhaps no inclosure, properly speaking, is a sufficient fence on both sides, but what is built entirely of stone; and tenants possessing only a 19 years lease, cannot be supposed to be at the expense of stone fences, when they have no allowance or encouragement for them. In the last state there is no notice taken of hay crop, it being the opinion of the farmers who gave it in, that no true judgment could be formed of the usual crops of hay from the produce of last year, on account of the supernumerary cattle on hand, till summer was near over, which consumed a great deal of grass, usually made into hay.

*Air, Climate and Diseases.*—This parish seems to have a considerable elevation above the level of the sea, and most of the neighbouring parishes, as will appear from a circumstance to be mentioned afterward. The air is consequently sharp and pure; and the seasons generally a week or fortnight later, than in many places in its vicinity. In winter the frost is sometimes so intense, as to put a stop to the plough; when nearer the coast it meets with no obstruction. Last winter, (1791-2,) it occasioned a cessation from tillage for 8 or 9 weeks. Snow lies very long upon the ground, and, in the higher part of the parish, sometimes falls to a considerable depth, when 2 or 3 miles eastward the fields are clothed in their blasted verdure. Here, too, we have often what are called summer-showers, which are very partial. A cloud is carried along a tract of ground, sometimes not more than 500 or 600 yards wide, pouring down a temporary deluge. In winter, again, a shower of snow, instead of rain, frequently passes over a like extent, and in the same direction. The physical cause seems to be



be a frequent interchange of clouds between the summits of 2 opposite hills, Bennachie and Mormond. The former is distant from us about 20 miles S. W. the latter about 8 or 9 miles N. E. But this observation is not to be confined to this place alone; for such phænomena, I believe, are common to almost every part of Scotland.—There are no diseases peculiar to this parish. Rheumatism is the most general complaint among the men, and nervous disorders among the women. To account for the prevalence of these disorders, I need only mention the employment of the former, which, after hard exercise in the morning, is to go out and stir a damp field; and the sedentary occupation of the latter, which is chiefly spinning or knitting of stockings. Scrofulous, consumptive, and asthmatic complaints are not so common. In autumn 1791, a putrid kind of sore throat, which first made its appearance about the coast side, found its way into this parish. Since that, it has continued to rage in different places, with great virulence, and little intermission, and is peculiarly fatal to the young, and people of a full constitution. No effectual remedy has yet been discovered for this contagious disorder; and the only approved medicines are a vomit at first, and then Jesuit's bark, continued several times a-day, in a glass of Port wine. A very malignant fever, too, has prevailed this winter. Some were carried off by it in eight days illness, while others have been languishing as many weeks.

*Natural History, Antiquities, &c.*—There is neither a wood, hill nor river in the parish; consequently no quadrupeds, migratory or aquatic birds, but such as are common: nor are there any remarkable fossils. There is, however, reason to believe, that this parish once abounded in wood; for vestiges of oak, hazel, and other hard wood, (but no fir), are to be found in every moss. Springs and rivulets,



rivulets, sufficient for driving mills and light machinery, are very plenty. There are also some chalybeate wells, but none of these have attained to any great repute. On a farm in the head of the parish there are 3 contiguous springs, which run in as many different directions. One of them runs eastward, increasing considerably in its course, till it joins the water of Strichen. These form the water of Ugie, which falls into the sea at Peterhead. Another of them runs southward into Ythan, and falls into the sea at Newburgh. The third runs N. W. into Doveran, and falls into the sea at Banff. This is the circumstance above alluded to, and from which we inferred the height of the parish.—Remains of several Druidical temples are to be seen. The place where one of them stood is about half a mile N. from the church, and still retains the name of “standing stones.” In view of this, and about a mile from the church, directly S. there was another. This is not yet all removed, and the former was but lately taken away, to lay the foundation of the present manse. There are also several tumuli or small cairns, some of which have been dug up, and found to contain urns inclosed in stone coffins. The coffins were composed of flags of stone from 3 to 4 feet long, and so closely laid together, that no dust could penetrate. The urns, which to the eye appeared quite sound, but mouldered at a touch, were placed near one of the corners, and contained fragments of human bones and ashes. About 2 miles north from the church stands an old castle, called *Fedderatt*, which appears to have been a place of considerable strength. It is surrounded partly by a fosse, and partly by a morass, so that there could have been no access to it, but by a causeway (which is still visible) and a draw-bridge. Water, it seems, had been conveyed to it by means of pipes; for pieces of them have, at different times, been torn up by the plough. Accord-  
ing



ing to tradition, it was built by one Crawford; but at what time we cannot learn. It afterward came into the possession of the Irvines of Drum, and is now the property of Lord Aberdeen. It is also said to have been one of the last strong holds of James II.'s partisans, who, after the battle of Killycrankie, possessed themselves of Fyvie castle, and, being obliged to abandon it, took refuge in Fedderatt; but were pursued, and expelled by King William's troops. In the west side of the parish there is an extensive piece of moor, called *Brucehill*. This is said to have been so named from Edward, brother to King Robert Bruce. Here he is reported to have encamped soon after the battle of Inverury, and from this to have marched in pursuit of the Cummins, to a place near the village of Deer, called *Aiky-brae*, or *Oaky-brae*. And this is partly corroborated by Joan Major, (de. gest. Scot. Fol. 83. lib. 5.) who relates, that Edward there engaged and routed the Cummins in the year 1308. In memory of this victory, the market of Aiky fair is said to have been established, which stands on the spot where the battle was fought.

*Population, &c.*—From the return made to Dr Webster 40 or 50 years since, the number of souls then was 2313. The amount of the present population is 2800 souls, of whom 1324 are males, and 1476 females. These are all of the Established Church, except 156 Seceders, (there being a Seceding meeting-house in the parish,) 40 Episcopalians, and 6 Roman Catholics.

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Under 10 years of age, | 480 |
| Between 10 and 20,     | 455 |
| — 20 and 30,           | 449 |
| — 30 and 40,           | 382 |
| — 40 and 50,           | 353 |

3 Between



|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Between 50 and 60, | 284 |
| 60 and 70,         | 238 |
| 70 and 80,         | 116 |
| 80 and 90,         | 38  |
| 90 and 100,        | 4   |
| at or above 100,   | 1   |

There are 11 heritors, 4 of whom, at present, reside. Tradesmen and mechanics, excluding apprentices, are as follows: Merchants, 20; tailors, 28; weavers, 27; wrights, 25; smiths, 19; shoemakers, 17; masons, 7; dyers, 2; and 1 physician. The annual average of baptisms for 7 years previous to 1783, is 50 $\frac{4}{7}$ ; and for 9 years since, ending 1791, it is but 33 $\frac{2}{9}$ . The only cause that can be assigned for this decrease, is the tax upon registration; for, since this tax commenced, there are many children (particularly females) born and baptized in the parish, whose names are not inserted in the register; because their parents are unwilling to pay the duty. This indeed is not so much the case in regard to males, for two very obvious reasons, the chance of emigrations, and the difficulty of getting an exemption from labour upon the public roads, without an attested extract from the register to show that they are superannuated. It was therefore deemed proper to give the average of baptisms, previous to the date of the act, because no certain conclusion, with regard to population, can be drawn from them since that period, and, even before, many of them were never desired to be registered; otherwise, instead of 50, the average number would have amounted nearly to 70.—Marriages and burials only began to be registered in 1785; and the average of the former, for 7 years ending 1791, is 18 $\frac{3}{7}$ , and 31 $\frac{3}{7}$  burials. But neither of these can afford any certain *data* for calculation, for many strangers are buried



here, many parishioners are carried to neighbouring burying grounds, and many are not registered at all, in consequence of the duty not being paid; and marriages are registered only when the bride resides in the parish. The present number of inhabitants, at a moderate calculation, is one-third greater than it was 30 or 40 years ago. This increase is to be ascribed to the parcelling out of large farms, and the abundance of moss and lime. The number of ploughs is about 230, of old ploughgates 80, of horses 712, of cattle 3200, and of sheep there may be from 1300 to 1400. Small farms, rent from L. 5 to L. 10; middle-sized farms from L. 10 to L. 20; large farms from L. 30 to L. 40: there is one at L. 50, and another about L. 80. A general measurement of the parish has never been made; nor can it be precisely stated what is the rent the acre. Where surveyors have been employed, they have usually rated the outfield at 6 s. and the infield at 12 s.; but the infield now generally lets from 12 s. to 18 s. or 20 s. and the outfield nearly in proportion.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The present stipend is 600 merks Scots, 4 chalders of meal, and L. 5 Sterling for communion-elements. The glebe, including manse and offices, &c. is scarcely 4 acres and a half. The Crown is patron. The age of the present incumbent is 86, and who has been minister for 56 years.—There is a very good school-house; the number of scholars, at an average through the year, is between 30 and 40. The schoolmaster's salary is about L. 4 Sterling. This, with 30 s. as session-clerk, school-fees, and some other small perquisites, may amount to L. 12 yearly, which is all his emolument.—The number of poor on the roll is 60 and upwards. The annual amount of the funds for their relief, arising from the weekly collections, interest of money, &c. is about L. 50. This, with



with the charitable aid of their neighbours, removes the necessity of their becoming vagrants, and makes them live pretty comfortably.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are remarkably sober and humane, and very diligent in their callings. There is but 1 licensed public-house, and but little frequented, except by travellers. The industry of those in the farming line here, as in most places, is not always attended with that success which might be wished. Seasons and circumstances, for some years, have been much against them. Since 1782 the harvests have been very late and precarious. The price of meal (which, at an average, may be valued at 12 s. the boll) bears no proportion to the price of every article the farmer has to buy. But what is most complained of at present, is the extravagant wages of their servants, which, for some years, have advanced at the rate of 10 s. the year \*. For these reasons, the condition of mechanics and subtenants (who depend more upon their trade than the produce of the ground, and do not require servants) is preferable to that of farmers. The condition of the farmers, as well as of the farms, might be meliorated by longer leases; and by converting, at a moderate rate, that part of their rent which is paid in kind into money. This would leave the farmer at more liberty to prosecute that mode of farming which he found most successful; whereas, when a large proportion of his rent is paid in meal, he is  
tempted

\* The pound here is Amsterdam weight, as at Aberdeen; and butter usually sells at, from 7 d. to 9 d. the pound; cheese, from 4 s. to 5 s. the stone; beef and mutton, from 2 d. to 3 d. the pound; hens, from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d. a pair; ducks a little higher; and eggs from 3 d. to 6 d. the dozen. Wages of a man servant are from L. 6 to L. 8 a-year; of a maid servant, from L. 3 to L. 4; of day-labourers, 8 d. a-day, with victuals, or 1 s. without.



tempted to overcrop, that he may make sure his rent. The moor and waste ground might be improved by letting it, free of rent, for a certain number of years. This inducement would do more than counterbalance every obstacle; for the most of it is dry, free of stones, of a sandy bottom, and the means of improvement at hand. Encouragement for inclosing, especially where the leases are short, would be beneficial. The multures exacted at mills are considered as a grievance, and some of the heritors are converting them into money. The distance from any seaport, or market place, is another disadvantage. This, however, might in a great measure be removed, by leading a canal from Peterhead to the neighbouring parish of Deer; which, by most people, is thought not impracticable. If a fund sufficient for this purpose could not be raised by contribution in the neighbourhood, application might be made to Government for some assistance, which is seldom made in vain, when public utility is the petitioner.



## NUMBER XV.

## PARISH OF KINNETTLES,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARN,  
PRESBYTERY OF FORFAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID FERNEY.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, Air, &c.*

THE name is of Gaelic derivation, and signifies "out  
"from the bogg." This name applies with peculiar  
propriety to the old mansion-house of the estate of Kin-  
nettles, which was built close to a piece of marshy ground,  
still called the Bogg\*. The church being built within the  
boundaries of this estate, that circumstance probably gave  
the name of Kinnettles to the parish. The form of the  
parish is nearly a square, having about 2 English miles  
for the length of each of its 4 sides. The south line or  
boundary seems, however, to be rather shorter than any  
of the other three. The parish is divided by a hill, one  
part of which is called Brighton, the other Kinnettles.  
The hill is arable, except a few acres of rocky land on  
that

\* The mansion-house is now removed about a furlong farther from the  
marsh.



that division of it which belongs to Kinnettles, which are planted. There are a few acres of woodland on the Brighton side. The hill continues to descend to the S. within a small distance from a rivulet which runs through the southern district of the parish. The western descent contains 4 inclosures, and then dies away into flat land. The northern continues the length of 3 inclosures; afterward the land is rather level, comprehending 3 inclosures also. There is a like number on the eastern descent, which is divided into two parts. South of the rivulet a range of sloping banks declines to the N. as far as the rivulet. The plantations and pleasure grounds of Brighton extend on both sides of the little river with a sweep about an English mile in length. The houses of Brighton, Kinnettles, Inverighty, with the pleasure ground, have a good effect.—Our soil is various, consisting some of it of brown clay, some of loam, of loam with a mixture of clay, of loam with a mixture of sand; some of it is in quality almost mere sand. Of this last kind there is but a small proportion. Our clay and black soil are deep and fertile; some of the strong land yields from 8 to 12 bolls an acre, particularly in oats after ley, when it is well laid down. Even the light soil has produced good crops with marl and kindly treatment.—The air is not so much infested with fogs as in some other districts in Scotland, being rather dry and healthful. We have no diseases that can be said to be local. Agues are scarcely known; fevers not epidemical; melancholy habits are equally rare here as in most other districts. The most epidemical fever in my remembrance, was about the beginning of spring 1789, after an uncommonly wet winter, in a village low and wet. Our air is sharp in winter, and frosty in proportion as the Grampians are covered with snow. We have several freestone quarries,



ries, which are made use of for building houses and fences; some of them yield stones well adapted for the purpose of hewing.

*Animals.*—Cattle and horses are in considerable numbers, 607 of the former, 130 of the latter. No sheep, but a few (about 40) kept principally for the use of gentlemen's families\*. The farmers in the parish rarely follow the plan of rearing cattle on their best farms; they rather buy in and fatten. Were they, however, to adopt the plan of rearing, they have the means of so doing up to 36 and 80 stone weight, when the cattle have attained the age of 4 or 5 years; and such cattle would bring, if fat, from 5s. to 7s. the stone, according to the demand and the pitch to which they may happen to be fed.

*Population, &c.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster in 1755, the number of souls was then 616. The state of population cannot be traced far back with any degree of exactness. The taste for enlarging farms, and razing cottages, has contributed not a little to diminish the number of inhabitants in this and most country parishes in Angus. This diminution, however, is not so great as might be expected from the number of houses demolished. Farmers and others, keep more female servants than are necessary, solely for the business of husbandry, and the service of their families. When not engaged in domestic and farming business, they can find employment for them in spinning yarn for the green linen manufacturers. But  
the

\* We have no migratory birds, except green plovers, swallows, and the cuckoo, which appear in the month of April; and the woodcock, in the beginning of winter. The swallow disappears about the month of September, the cuckoo about the month of July.



the number gained in this manner is not equal to the number lost by the razing of houses. The amount of the present population is 621, comprehending all ages; males 325; females 296. There is no town in the parish, only 1 village, containing 78. The number of births for 10 years preceding April 1790, was 165, making  $16\frac{1}{2}$  yearly. There is no register of deaths kept here. Since 1783, on account of the tax, there has been a register of burials, which contains all that have been buried here, whether parishioners or strangers. This would have given certain information of the deaths in the parish, had it not been customary here not to confine the burying of their dead to the churchyard of the parish. From October 1783 to October 1790, there have been 28 marriages. But this article may readily occasion a mistake, and a return of many more marriages may possibly be given than have actually taken place in it. When the bridegroom resides in one parish, and the bride in another, there may be a report of the same marriage from both these parishes.

| Males.         |     | Females.       |     |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Under 10,      | 68  | Under 10,      | 49  |
| From 10 to 20, | 91  | From 10 to 20, | 81  |
| — 20 to 50,    | 116 | — 20 to 50,    | 118 |
| — 50 to 70,    | 42  | — 50 to 70,    | 43  |
| — 70 to 100,   | 8   | — 70 to 100,   | 5   |
| —              | —   | —              | —   |

The oldest inhabitant at present is a woman in her 90th year, and 2 men going 85. I recollect no tradition of remarkable old age here. Exclusive of pendicle tacksmen, who depend not on farming alone for their subsistence, we have 16 farmers, besides 2 gentlemen who farm part of their own estates. Their families in all contain 167 persons. There are 3 farms, on which the possessors do not reside;



reside; and 1 of these yields the highest rent. The circumstance of non-residence on these farms diminishes considerably the number of this class. The number of heritors is 5, and 2 of them reside. The number of manufacturers is 58; of handicraftsmen, 20; apprentices, 6. Household servants are 5 male, 16 female. There are 76 labouring servants, 51 male, 25 female; here I have marked only hired servants. With most of our farmers, the sons and daughters of the family supply, in a considerable degree, the place of servants. There is 1 artist employed in conducting a flax-yarn mill. Labouring servants often go from one parish to another. We have 2 residing heritors, Mr Douglas of Brighton, and Mr Bower of Kinnettles, or of Kincaldrum. Their families consist of 25 persons, exclusive of domestic servants. Lord Strathmore is one of the heritors, but has no mansion-house here; also Mr Simson of Inverighty, who has a mansion-house here, but resides in Edinburgh. There is 1 clergyman, 26 Episcopalians, 5 Roman Catholics, 1 Seceder, 589 of the Established Church, 93 married men, 45 bachelors at the age of 21, widowers, 12; marriages, upon an average, may produce  $5\frac{1}{5}$ . There is no account of any having died of want. No recollection of murders or suicides, except one suicide committed by a woman about 20 years since\*. Very few have emigrated.

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\* We have bands of sturdy beggars, male and female, or, as they are usually called, tinkers; whose insolence, idleness, and dishonesty, are an affront to the police of our country. These persons are ready for prey of all kinds. Every thing that can supply them with provisions, or bring them money, is their spoil, if it can be obtained with any appearance of safety. They file off in small parties, and have their places of rendezvous, where they choose to billet themselves at least for one day; nor do they fail generally to make good their quarters, as the farmer is afraid to refuse to answer their demands, or to complain of the oppression under which he labours.



grated. None have been banished, or obliged to leave the parish for want of employment. No uninhabited houses. The number of the inhabited is 126; the proportion of houses to the number of inhabitants is as  $1 : 4\frac{11}{16}$ . On account of the increased size of farms, and the practice of inclosing, population does not seem to be so great now as it was 25 years ago. Farmers were then accustomed to have 1 or 2 houses on their farms, with a small quantity of land, which were intended for the accommodation of one or two married servants. Since the inclosing and labouring of ground with attention have taken place, that accommodation for married servants is withdrawn, and other servants are thereby discouraged from marrying. The servant finds, too, that when married, he cannot so easily find a place with a farmer, whom, perhaps, he would be most willing to serve; nor are masters, in general, fond of retaining married servants. In fact, there is no class among whom marriages are so infrequent, as farmers servants.

*Productions, Agriculture, &c.*—Almost all the vegetables, plants and trees in Scotland are to be found here, and thrive in our soil and climate; and we have such animals as are common to the low countries of Scotland. Rent of best arable land is from 18 s. to L. 1, 5s. the acre. Size of farms is from 42 to 200 acres, and upwards. Farms, at an average, about L. 88 yearly. There is at least 4-5ths of the parish inclosed. The number of acres under the different crops, at present, is nearly as follows:—583 in oats, 335 in barley, 26 in wheat, 33 in pease, 28 in lint, 84 in turnips, 22 in potatoes, 174 in cutting grass, and 777 in pasture; amounting in all to nearly  $2065\frac{1}{2}$  acres. There are 31 ploughs, drawn by 3 or 4 horses; 56 carts; 1 coach; 1 two-wheeled chaise. Exclusive of what some heritors retain in their own



own hands, the land-rent of the parish may be about L. 1600 Sterling. The parish supplies itself with provisions. Besides what is sufficient for that purpose, a considerable quantity of oat-meal is sent to the neighbouring towns; and perhaps  $\frac{2}{3}$  of our barley is conveyed partly to the towns in the county, and partly to others at a greater distance, to be manufactured there. The attention of our farmers has never been turned to the raising of hemp. We know not what it is in this country to turn land into grass, without sowing it with grass-seeds. All our hay-grass, and pasture on land fit for tillage, are artificial grasses. We have some pasture (about 120 acres) on mire and moss ground, which is natural grass; such lands having not, as yet, been brought under culture. There are about 20 acres of moor, and 12 or 16 of plantations. The grass-seeds sown here are red and white clover, about 19 or 20 lb. to the acre, 2-3ds red, and 1-3d white. We add 6 or 8 pecks of rye-grass seed, which has frequently a mixture of rib-grass or plantane. Commonly this artificial grass is cut the two first years for hay, and house-feeding for cows and horses in summer. I attempted once to introduce the tall yellow clover, and commissioned a quantity of the seed of that grass, as being of a less dangerous quality than the red clover. I was disappointed, having got only a dwarf, groveling, unprofitable kind, instead of that which I commissioned. I never attempted to introduce it again, nor has it as yet found its way into the parish \*.

*Stipend,*

\* Our wheat, in general, is sown from the end of September to the 20th of October. We sow oats as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry for receiving it. Sometimes land is fit for seed in February, as in 1779; at other times, not till the middle of April. The desirable time for our soil, in general, is to begin about the 10th or 15th of March. On dry land, in good condition, with a good season, there will be a luxuriant crop, though



*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend, in money, is L. 44 : 3 : 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling; in victual, 2 chalders of meal, and 1 chalder of barley, each kind valued at 13 s. 4 d. which, with the old glebe, about 6 acres, and 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of moor, obtained in lieu of a servitude, at L. 1, 10 s. the acre, the whole may be rated at L. 88 : 18 : 3. In point of benefit, I am much at a loss how to estimate a glebe. A minister labouring it at the expense of L. 14 for a man-servant's wages

though sown so early. In wettish land, and not into such order, there will be little straw, and altogether a deficient crop, if it be not sown considerably later. English barley, which demands our best soil, and in the highest condition, requires to be sown from the 20th of April to the 5th of May, in order to produce good and sufficiently early grain; Scotch barley, from the beginning to the 15th of May; common Scotch bear, from the 10th to the 25th of May. Our pease are of the hastings kind, and do not require to be sown before the middle or 20th of April. Lint-seed, from the 20th to the end of April. It was earlier with some last season, by 14 or 20 days; but where this was the case, the seed lay uncommonly long in the ground without shooting; some of it was sickly during a good part of summer; nor could it be said to be sooner ready for pulling, than that which had been sown about the usual time. Smart nights and mornings are frequent about the end of April, rendering the lint crop very uncertain, if it get above ground before the 1st of May. They plant potatoes from the 20th of April to the beginning of May; and sow turnips from the 10th to the 20th or 22d of June. The reaping time must vary according to the nature of the summer. Hay, which is not intended for seed, is cut from the 1st to the 10th of July; what is intended for ryegrass seed, 8 or 10 days later. Lint harvest is from the 12th to the 25th of August, sometimes a few days later. The earliest and latest commencement of barley harvest, which I remember, was the 15th of August, and the last day of September. In the years 1775, 1779, and 1783, the barley harvest began from the 15th to the 18th of August; in the year 1782, it began the last day of September. The barley harvest usually begins about the 1st or 5th of September. Wheat is cut down about the same time with barley. Our barley, for the most part, begins to be cut down about 10 or 14 days before the beginning of oat harvest. In 1779, the corns on dry farms were all got in by the 10th or 12th of September. In 1782, they were not got in with some till the 22d of November; with others, some days later.



wages and board, with two horses kept for the purpose, must be a considerable loser. It was an unlucky circumstance, in assigning land to ministers, that the Legislature did not think of allotting more. 20 or 25 acres might have been managed with very little additional expense. The Crown is patron. The manse was built in 1737, and was repaired in 1785. The time at which the church was built is not known; it got a repair a good many years ago.—The schoolmaster's salary is L. 5. Number of scholars, from 20 to 30, at 1 s. 3 d. the quarter, for 3 quarters of the year. The fees are L. 4 : 13 : 9; fees for registration of baptisms and marriages, and salary as session-clerk, L. 2 : 8 : 4. The amount of the whole is L. 12 : 2 : 1; a sum less by L. 2 Sterling than the income of a common labourer.—The number of poor is 7. The annual contributions are about L. 13, 16 s. There are some seats in the church belonging to the poor, which yield L. 2, 12 s. yearly. Interest of money, about L. 2, 8 s. In all, L. 18, 16 s. \*.

*Miscellaneous*

\* The price of meat, 40 years ago, may be rated at 1 d. the pound. Now all kinds of butcher meat, of the best quality, fetch from 3½ d. to 4 d. the pound. Hens were then 4 d. and now about 1 s. and other poultry in the same proportion. Butter, 40 years ago, was 4 d. the pound; now it fetches from 7½ d. to 10 d. Cheese, I presume, was not sold by weight at the distance of 40 years, but was then proportionably low; now it sells from 5 s. to 6 s. the stone, the stone consisting of 24 English pounds. Wheat is now from 18 s. to L. 1, 7 s.; bear, from 10 s. to L. 1. These highest prices of wheat and barley have not been paid for many years, except in 1782. The usual price of barley and oat-meal is from 12 s. to 16 s. Forty years ago, grain was in general from 3 s. to 5 s. cheaper.—Wages, without board, for a day-labourer, are 1 s. or 1 s. 1 d.; a carpenter, 1 s. 4 d.; tailor, 1 s. 1 d.; bricklayer and mason, 1 s. 6 d. or 1 s. 8 d.—The fuel generally made use of is peat. Gentlemen use coal in their families; it is also part of the fuel in some farm-houses. Many burn nothing but peat, broom, and furze. We are under the necessity of resorting for peat to a neighbouring parish, at the distance of about 2 English miles from a great part of this district. Any moss we have in the



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—We labour under no disadvantages, but such as are common to us with almost all the county of Angus; the want of salt, lime and coal. We have all the advantages which are enjoyed by other inland districts; and are supplied with marl from pits near the boundaries of the parish. Houses unconnected with land, dont yield, I think, L. 12 Sterling. Farm houses are in *cumulo* with the farms. Such houses being now an article of considerable expense, the landlords begin to specify a rent, according to a certain rate of interest on the money laid out in building, *viz.* about 7 *per cent.*—The writer

the parish, is not dug. Our coals are from the Forth, by sea-carriage to Dundee. Moss-dues to the proprietor, are 9 d. in one moss, 6 d. in another, the cart-load. The usual price of coal is 4 s. the boll, the boll weighing 56 stone.—The rate of common labourers wages is the same as that of farmers servants.

|                                                           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Husbands wages,                                           | L. 8 0 0  |
| Meal, in place of maintenance, 2 pecks a-week, with milk, | 5 17 0    |
| Industry of the wife, besides the care of the family,     | 2 12 0    |
| <hr/>                                                     |           |
| Amount of their funds for one year,                       | L. 16 9 0 |

This a-week is 6 s.  $3\frac{3}{4}$  d. I make no doubt but it may suffice for the plain diet and clothing which such families use. Let us suppose the family to be numerous, I allow only the husband and wife, and 5 children, to depend on this weekly allowance, *viz.* one child of 8 years, one of 6, one of 4, one of 2, and an infant. When the youngest of these 5 is born, a boy or girl of the family, who had reached the age of 10 years, goes to service, and the burden of that child is taken away. A boy or girl at 8 years of age becomes useful in the family, and enables the mother to use her industry for increasing their funds. When a few of the children get above 10 years, they increase the living of the family very considerably. If the labourer be a farmer's servant, the farmer generally allows him a day for digging peats, and some draughts of carts for bringing home his fuel.—The wages of male servants, in husbandry, are in general about L. 8 Sterling, with maintenance in the family, or  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oat-meal yearly, with a sufficient quantity of milk. A maid-servant has L. 3 Sterling, with maintenance.



writer of the Roman department of the Universal History, is said to have been a native of this parish.—The people in general are of an equal degree of strength, compared with the inhabitants of other counties in Scotland. We have some who may be accounted strong. One man, in particular, might stand high in the list of strong men in any county of Britain. The tallest man, within our bounds, wants, I think, about half an inch of 6 feet high. They are of different sizes, from about 6 feet down to 5 feet 4 or 5 inches, perhaps a very few below that height. The ordinary stature is about 5 feet 7 inches. Women, in general, are about 5 feet high. Exclusive of shoes, we have ladies, whose height is from 5 feet 4 to 5 feet 7 inches. The complexions of the people, are some ruddy, some pale. They have all, however, a healthy appearance; and are pretty remarkable for an acuteness of genius, which enables them to attain to dexterity in the different occupations in which they employ their talents.—The people are very much disposed to industry. The only manufacture is green linen, or osnaburgh. There are 58 hands employed in that branch of weaving. We have a spinning mill for flax yarn. It is on a small scale, intended to contain 120 pirns. A corn mill is converted to that purpose. It is in contemplation of the Company to extend their plan, if the experiment now making shall answer their expectations. In the mean time, they are busy adjusting their apparatus, of which they have made trial; and the yarn which it throws, looks well, and is thought to be of a very good quality. This work is carrying on by virtue of a lease of patent privilege from a Company in England.—We have but very few instances of fondness for a seafaring life. Nor are the people much addicted to a military one: the army not having, at any period, in the memory of man, obtained any considerable supply here.



here. The inhabitants in general are æconomical, and augment, rather than diminish their stock. They are well clothed and fed. Superior industry affords them a plentiful supply of the necessaries and comforts of life. Among one class, however, æconomy does not seem to have been much regarded.—The whole landed property has been transferred by sale since the year 1743. Prices of land have been, I presume, about 25 years purchase, or perhaps a little more.—We have few calls for extraordinary exertions of humanity : in clamant cases of distress, I can easily believe our people capable of extraordinary beneficence. They enjoy, in a considerable degree, the advantages and comforts of society : contented with their accommodation, few remove to distant parts of the country, or emigrate to foreign countries.—The circumstances most extensively distressing, are those which affect the manufacturers of green linen. They depend on two countries, Russia for their raw materials, and the West Indies and part of America for the sale of their manufacture. A bad crop of flax in Russia, or the jobbing spirit of the merchants there, or extraordinary profits to the importers of the flax, often reduce the profits of these manufacturers to a mere trifle. This evil, I think, might be removed, if flax raising could be brought to a system, which would render a flax crop equally certain with any other crop. Our soil is pretty much adapted to the raising of flax, and the plan of farming here is such, that the farmer could easily employ a few acres in cultivating it. In this case, there would be only the chance of the sale market against the manufacturers. But although grievances were redressed as much as possible, it is still a question, whether that is not the most desirable manufacture which is supplied with materials from the country itself, and has the benefit of a home market, founded on the natural demand of the inhabitants

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for the manufactured articles \*.—As to the manners of the people, they are distinguished from those of a period 30 or 40 years ago, as there is more industry, attention, enterprise and sobriety. Their customs are much the same

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\* The public road from Perth, through Strathmore, which passes thro' this parish, is repairing on a new plan, and will soon be finished within our bounds, unless it shall be deemed necessary to widen it. It was begun to be repaired in autumn 1789. Owing to the spirited plan of subscriptions from the gentlemen in the county, the road from Forfar to Dundee, part of which passes through this parish, is proceeding on the same plan. All the county roads in Angus are to be repaired from the subscription-fund. We are much indebted to the exertions of Mr Douglas of Brighton, who transacts and superintends the business of the road from Forfar to Dundee, and for several miles on the Strathmore road. To render the road convenient, steep banks are avoided, and on Mr Douglas's ground in this parish, the road takes a new direction for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles through inclosures of land of very excellent quality. The rule is not to admit, if possible, above 1 foot of rise in 20. These roads have turnpikes, and all the county roads either have or are to have them. Our farmers are much reconciled to turnpikes, and imagine that the accommodation obtained in this way, is cheap. Statute-labour is not exacted in kind. Since the plan by subscription took place, the commutation-money is to be applied to the repairing of the private roads. We have two bridges in the parish; one on the road from Forfar to Glammis, was built by subscription, at least in part, about 21 years since, and is in good condition; the other, on the road from Forfar to Dundee, is intended to be taken down, and another built at some small distance.—In the year 1782, our driest lands were not fit for receiving seed till the 16th or 17th of April. There was not a blade of oats to be seen till about the 12th of May, in this neighbourhood, which is rather an early district. The barley-seed time was very backward. About the 29th of May, we had rain for 50 hours, without intermission. The summer was cold and wet; and on the 16th of August, we had an uncommon flood, which chilled the ground so as to deprive it of the warmth necessary for filling and ripening the corns. On the morning of the 12th of September, we had hoarfrost as thick as at Christmas. About 7 o'clock that morning, the sun was bright, and had influence sufficient to melt the frost; and, in a few minutes, pease and potatoes had the look of having been dipped in boiling water. The effect of this frost made the farmer imagine that harvest was nigh. The corns assumed a whitish appearance, and the first rain threw it in appearance several stages back.



as at that period. Their dress is more gay, and expensive; their living more plentiful. Though it is not the case in this parish, to any considerable degree, in show, expense, manner of living, and dress, there is an imitation of superiors creeping into the country. Perhaps 30 years ago, the boundaries between the ranks were more distinctly marked, and more attentively observed. Inferior ranks begin not to scruple to invade the boundaries of those above them. The genius of the people leads them to industry and enterprise; besides, they are very communicative. This disposition suffers no experiment to lie concealed, either as to the manner

back. The corns were changed from green to whitish, and from whitish to green, according as frost or rain happened to prevail. Our lower, ablest, and best lands, which will produce 8, 10, or 12 bolls of oats an acre in good years, yielding from 15 to 16, or perhaps 17 pecks of meal the boll, that year yielded 4 or 5 bolls an acre, and these yielding not above 8, 10, or 11 pecks of meal the boll. I heard of some oats in the county, which yielded only mill dust, instead of meal. Barley of that crop, which was much used for meal, fell greatly short, both of its usual quantity and quality. The higher grounds, raised above the region of the noxious hoar-frosts, had a more equal progress towards ripening. And these high, weak, light grounds, not reaped till the month of November, produced oats, yielding about 15 pecks of meal the boll. These grounds were less hurt by the frost and rain. Of that crop, farmers paying considerable rents, could scarcely procure as much oat-meal from their farms, as was sufficient for their own families, and oats for sowing their ground. People, both in towns and the country, traversed the country, and particularly this parish, where we had several mills, and thought themselves lucky if they could obtain a peck or two of meal, to supply the immediate and urgent demands of their families. They would gladly have given more than the high current price, to have been assured of finding it at any particular place. The scarcity continued through summer 1783; and had it not been for a supply of English oats from Leith, I doubt not but some must have perished for want. Some farmers, foreseeing the distressed condition of the country, sowed some barley early. Great quantities of potatoes were planted, and the harvest of 1783 was early. By these means, the country obtained a speedy and pretty plentiful supply. Amidst the scarcity of provisions, there was one comforting circumstance. The people, in general, were not distressed for want of money.



ner of conducting it, or as to its success. Their spirit of enterprise makes them easily adopt a new plan, when fairly recommended by its success; and their industry secures their doing justice to any plan which they may adopt. Free from the fetters of prejudice, they follow, let the leader be whom he will, if they are warranted by fair, well tried, successful experiments. That spirit has brought this country to be able to support double or triple the number of inhabitants, which it could have done 30 or 40 years ago. A great deal of waste ground has been brought under culture; and lands which then would have yielded 3 or 4 bolls an acre, now produce 8 or 10, and sometimes more. This is the case, more or less, with the country of Strathmore, and in the county of Angus: I know no part of the country where farming is carried on to greater perfection than in this very parish.—Besides a great increase in the quantity of corn, there is a considerable addition of profit by the rearing and fattening of cattle. Instead of the stunted and famished breed, of which the farmer's store consisted 40 years ago, cattle can now be reared to a considerable size, and fetch a decent price, to compensate the trouble and expense; fatted cattle generally sell well. Our farmers fatten through the winter, some 10, some 16, some 20, some 30 cattle. Some of these are partly fed with turnips, straw and hay; some with turnips and hay. Such as are fed wholly on turnips and hay, can be brought to a degree of fatness, not exceeded in any part of Scotland. The greatest part of our pasture and hay foggage is employed for the purpose of fattening. Turnip crops keep the land clean, and the great proportion of pasture gives them vigour to produce good corn crops when broken up.—There is a grievance, which, though in one view, it affects but a single individual in a parish, yet is very extensive in  
its



its influence; I mean the pitiful living of schoolmasters. In fact, there is no occupation among us, or in the country in general, from which greater profits may not be obtained. What extent of learning and qualifications is to be demanded or expected from a person, whose office yields him hardly the bare necessities of life? I think we are just on the verge of having schools remaining vacant; the office being stripped of every thing that can induce a man of any capacity to accept of it.—Allow me to make another observation. In respect to the poor, matters seem to be very improperly conducted. We are importuned by people from almost every county in Scotland; whose stories may be true or false; and whose circumstances may therefore entitle them to charity, or may not. Much good would accrue to the public, if such vagrants were confined to their respective parishes. Their circumstances might then be exactly known; temptations to falsehood would be taken away; idleness would be prevented; persons able to contribute in any respect to their subsistence, would be obliged to exert their industry, or would suffer the reward due to their neglect. Here, however, an objection occurs, namely, That some parishes, from the scantiness of their funds, and the great number of their poor, are unable to supply, in any comfortable manner, all the poor within their bounds. Where collections, dedicated to the support of the poor, are not sufficient for necessary supplies, let there be assessments. This would oblige landed gentlemen, and others, on whom such assessments might be chiefly laid, to exert themselves, by introducing manufactures, or other means of subsistence. The number of poor would thereby be diminished; those who might still need parochial supply, would be less indigent, and others become able to bear a part of the burden of the unavoidably poor.



poor. So long as mankind are supported by strolling, the industry and ingenuity of thousands must be lost to the community, and vice cherished to a considerable degree. —The decrease of population in country parishes, and the great resort of people to towns, is an evil much to be regretted. Though this mode should continue, it is not improbable that there may be still a gradual increase of inhabitants over Scotland. But the question is, by which of these two plans may population be supposed to increase most; whether, by a well peopled state of country parishes, or by extending and crowding the towns. In all infectious distempers, such as fevers, small-pox, measles, whooping cough, the danger to children is greatest in towns. As to inoculated small-pox, the distemper may be introduced in towns at a favourable season, and, when introduced, it takes its range of infection, and before its course is finished, the hot unfavourable season arrives, and the distemper generally becomes malignant and fatal. In the country, infection from this distemper may be more easily avoided, and I hope to see whole parishes taking such rational views of inoculation, as to agree to have all their children, who have not had the distemper, put under inoculation, at the same time, during the favourable season; a victory over prejudice, not to be expected universally in large towns. But dropping this consideration, the sickly looks of many children, in large, crowded, ill situated, or ill constructed towns, show that the country is the preferable place for children. Inhabitants of large towns are sensible of this, who rejoice in the opportunity of having them settled in the country, especially after they have been ailing, as the only means of restoring their health and vigour. But how is the prevailing resort to towns to be prevented, when the present taste is, to raze or suffer almost every house



house to go to decay, which is not conducive to the benefit of a farm? Might not the building one or two neat villages in every country parish, be the means of preventing this great concourse of inhabitants to the towns. They might be erected in a dry situation, and calculated for convenience as well as health. Supposing these villages to be inhabited by mechanics, manufacturers, day-labourers, farmers servants and widows, there might be one or two small farmers connected with the village, who might have leisure, and be induced to perform carriages to the villagers for hire \*.

\* Personal services are still performed here. They are specified and limited. Occupiers of a house and garden, or of a house, garden, and one or two acres of land, perform some days work occasionally, as the proprietor may happen to require them in the course of the year. Such tenants as possess ground sufficient to enable them to keep a horse, besides the above services, are bound to perform two horseback carriages in the course of the year, as far as Dundee, which is about 12 miles, or to a similar distance. Greater tenants are bound to bring a certain number of bolls of coals from Dundee to the proprietors house, which require 2 or 3 days work of their carts. Besides, they must give a day's work of all their reapers, for cutting down the proprietors corns. These go by the general name of services, in place of the old arrhage and carriage, which were very comprehensive. *Arrhage*, I take to be from the Latin, *aro*, to till; and implied the driving out of the manure for the proprietor's farm, ploughing and harrowing his ground, reaping in harvest, and bringing home his hay and corns. The old service of carriage was very unlimited, and very tyrannically exacted.—From 16 to 30 years back, from the present time, about 37 cottages were razed, or became ruinous. From 10 to 17 years back, 10 or 11 new cottages have been erected; an increase of small houses has begun to take place; a mill, for spinning flax-yarn, is building; and a village is begun, for accommodating the hands to be employed, which will require a considerable number of houses. The employing of cottagers in agriculture, increases population. A house for accommodating a family, is a considerable inducement for a servant to marry; and, from having a house and an acre or two of land, a servant is more inclined to remain in his master's service. Hired servants are apt to be touchy and petulant, by being less dependent, as having it more easily  
in



in their power to remove from one place to another. A hired servant, however, has the chance of obtaining more extensive knowledge, by sometimes changing his place.—There is no post-town nearer than Forfar, about 3 miles distant from the centre of this parish. We have one ale-house; no inn. Ale-houses are not so much resorted to, as 30 or 40 years ago.

NUM.



## NUMBER XVI.

## PARISH OF BALMERINO,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF  
CUPAR.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW THOMSON.*

*Name, Extent, Climate, &c.*

THIS parish takes its name from a small village upon the banks of the river Tay, anciently spelt *Balmurenach*, signifying, as would appear from the Gaelic, "Sailors Town;" and the old abbey of that name is called by Leslie *Balmuræum*, and by Fordun, *Habitaculum ad Mare*. This parish stretches along the banks of the Tay in 2 ranges of hills. The medium length from E. to W. by a pretty exact measurement, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and its breadth from N. to S. nearly  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles. It is almost a semicircle, with the church in the centre, and the northern half of the circle cut off by the Tay. From the above measurement, it must exceed 3000 Scots acres; about 2-3ds of it is arable, and supports more than 700 people old and young. There are no diseases peculiar to the parish; on the contrary,



tiary, the people may be said to be healthy. There were 4 persons who died within these 10 years upwards of 90; and there are several now alive above 80 years of age. The wholesomeness of the climate appears also from the fruitfulness of the females. The present incumbent has often, in the course of 10 years, had an opportunity of baptizing twins; and there are 2 families in it at present, 1 of whom has had thrice twins, and the other has five sons, now alive, at 2 births: The twins are youngest, and were baptized in the 1789.

*Soil and Culture.*—As the lands lie on rising banks, they are for the most part dry. The soil in general is thin and sharp, but very productive, lies on a gravel, or what is called here a rachelly bottom, except in some places where it is tilly, or upon rock, and consequently wettilsh; and even this is much improved by draining, (which is now begun to be better understood), though indeed it is to be wished that the Highland, or some other society, would pay attention to that great improvement in agriculture, by offering a premium for the best essay on the most effectual mode of draining lands. The method of culture and cropping varies even in this small parish. The ploughing is now generally carried on by two horses, managed by one servant with a pair of long reins, and oxen are seldom yoked; yet some keep and work them both in the plough, by themselves, and in carriages. In cropping, some adopt the following rotation: Four years in grass, kept the 2 first years for hay, and the 2 last laid out into pasture, oats, barley, green crop, or summer fallow, with a top dressing of lime, wheat, barley, and grass-seeds, and so on, having always 5-9ths in green crop and summer fallow, 4 9ths in white crop, and never more than 2 white crops in succession. Others, with what they call infield land, take 2

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years grass, 1 year in hay, and the other in pasture, oats, barley, oats, green crop, or summer fallow, wheat, and barley, with grass-seeds; outfield, 2 years grass pastured, oats, barley, oats and grass-seeds. Those that adopt this mode of husbandry, generally lime on the grass from 30 to 40 bolls of shells an acre, and which, they think, will not admit of more lime for 20 or 30 years afterward. At the same time, it must be observed, that most of the outfield is now coming to be infield, from the superior mode of management adopted by the farmers. Some prepare with green crop, such as turnips, potatoes, or pease for barley, with grass-seeds, 3 years grass cut for hay 2 years, and pasture the 3d; oats, barley, green crop, and so on in rotation; and some grass and oats alternately.

*Produce.*—The soil here is remarkably fitted for barley, and frequently produces large returns from the acre. The wheat, though of a good quality, seldom produces so much. The oats are good, and have often been known to give 8 stone of meal the boll, Linlithgow measure. The turnips seldom fail to produce a heavy crop. Pease and beans are precarious, and cultivated chiefly with a view of preparing the soil for the after crop. Potatoes are good in quality, and often give large returns from the acre. Flax, especially in new-drained lands, a weighty crop. The lands produce more of every sort of grain than is sufficient for the inhabitants. Most of the wheat and barley is sent by the Tay to the Forth and Canal, and the oats are sold in the neighbourhood. This parish, till within these 30 years, did not produce so much grass as to afford pasture for the cattle necessary for labouring the soil. At that time the farmers were forced to graze out a part, and depended chiefly upon their marshy grounds for the subsistence of the remainder through the summer. Now the bogs are almost



almost all drained, and by the means of artificial grasses, the farmers are become remarkable for their fine breed of cattle, which are generally sold off at high prices, from 3 to 4 years old; and what are kept till they are full growth, are not to be excelled by any of the Fife breed. One farmer sold his 3 year old black cattle last summer, for fattening, at L. 9, 12s. and the stock on hand this year is esteemed to be much stronger and more valuable. There is a gentleman who resides in the parish, who sold last season in Cupar fair, the 2 best oxen, both for weight and beauty, that were in it.

It is impossible to say what are the real rents of the parish, as they are paid part in victual, part in money; and hence rise and fall with the price of grain. Besides there are some 100 acres occupied by several of the proprietors themselves, the rents of which cannot be ascertained. The valued rent is L. 3944 : 9 : 2 Scots; and the lands let as high as any in the neighbourhood.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the population was then 565. The number of souls, when taken last summer, was, males 334; females 369; in all 703. The parish contains 162 houses, 28 of which are occupied by widows and unmarried women. There are 12 heritors, 3 great ones, and 9 possessed of small property. Two of the principal heritors have their constant residence in it, and likewise 3 of the lesser ones. There are 50 weavers, 4 wrights, 2 blacksmiths, 2 masons, 7 tailors, 9 shoemakers, 1 miller, and 2 boatmen; about 20 Seceders; the remainder are farmers and labourers. There has been no regular register of burials for a great number of years. The register of baptisms and marriages for the 10 years preceding 1782, is as follows:

Baptisms.



|                   | Baptisms. |                    | Marriages. |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|
|                   | Males.    | Females.           |            |
| 1772,             | 9         | 1                  | 1          |
| 1773,             | 4         | 4                  | 7          |
| 1774,             | 11        | 6                  | 6          |
| 1775,             | 11        | 6                  | 2          |
| 1776,             | 7         | 7                  | 3          |
| 1777,             | 7         | 7                  | 7          |
| 1778,             | 7         | 4                  | 5          |
| 1779,             | 14        | 6                  | 7          |
| 1780,             | 8         | 9                  | 5          |
| 1781,             | 10        | 10                 | 5          |
|                   | —         | —                  |            |
|                   | 88        | 60                 |            |
| Total Baptisms, - | 148       | Ditto Marriages, - | 44         |

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is 8 chalders of victual, and 200 merks Scots, (out of which the minister has to furnish the communion-elements); a glebe of about 9 acres, with a manse, garden, and office-houses.—School-master's salary is 100 merks Scots; and the parish-dues, which may amount to L. 3 Sterling, with a house and garden.—There are no beggars; such as are infirm by distrefs or old age, and unable to procure a maintenance, either by help of their friends, or by their own hands, are provided for out of a small fund, from former savings, from the weekly collections, and from private beneficence\*.

*Advantages.*—These are, 1<sup>st</sup>, Its being situated on the banks of the Tay, where there is a ferry boat which passes twice

\* Servants wages are from L. 6 to L. 8 Sterling. Day-labourers earn from 1 s. to 1 s. 3 d.; masons and wrights have generally, through the county, the same wages. Butcher meat and poultry, the same as the Dundee prices.



twice a-week to Dundee, and it is within two miles of Woodhaven, a public ferry, where boats constantly ply; thus cheese, butter, poultry, eggs, &c. are easily conveyed to a good market. By means of the Tay likewise, coal and lime are brought to Balmerino in such quantities, as to serve all the purposes of fuel and agriculture. And what is of the greatest importance, the harbour of Balmerino, a creek belonging to the custom house of Dundee, is the chief place on the south side of the Tay for shipping wheat and barley for the Forth and Canal. The quay was at first designed for shipping lime from the Fife hills to Dundee; now there is not a boll that comes from thence, but, on the contrary, some thousands from Charlestown on the Forth, and from South Sunderland, are delivered annually to the parish and neighbourhood. This trade has been much on the increase of late. The trade of shipping wheat and barley at this port began about 30 years ago; at first, only some farm-bolls were shipped, and afterward the merchants began to buy from the farmers at the weekly market in Cupar, and received their grain at Balmerino. Before that period, the farmers carried their victual either to Dundee, where the merchants shipped the surplus, or transported it upon horseback to the south coast. The number of bolls shipped here last year must, from the nearest calculation, have exceeded 7000. The harbour is but trifling, and may, no doubt, be improved; but, as the bottom is good, ships lie to and take in and deliver with ease. 2d, This being in the neighbourhood of Dundee, a great manufacturing town, the weavers find plenty of work, and the factory-work finds constant employment for all the women, who generally spin with both hands, and are at present receiving at the rate of 17d. the spindle. 3d, There are eight salmon-fishings in the parish, upon the banks of the Tay. These fishings are carried on by means of



of yairs or scaffolds with poke-nets, and in summer with sweep and toot nets. The first are hauled when the fish strike the nets in their way up with the flowing tide. The second are payed off and drawn in at a certain time of the tide, without knowing whether there are salmon or not; and the last are set in the water, and never drawn till the watchman, or *tootfman*, as he is called here, observes the fish to have got within the net. These fishings are become very valuable of late, and bring in money to the country from our neighbours in England. There is likewise a spirling fishing carried on here through the winter, and as they catch great numbers of spirlings, garvies, herrings, flounders, &c. they are sold at low prices, and are easily come at by the poorest in the parish. The spirlings are taken with poke-nets tied between two poles, and anchored at the back end. The ebbing tide forces the fish into them, and they are shaken out at low water\*. The fishers, who are extremely industrious, likewise catch seals, in the summer months, with long nets, for which, besides the value of the oil and skins, they draw a small premium from the salmon-dealers in Perth.

*Antiquities.*—The first thing that deserves our notice here, is the ruins of the Abbey of Balmerino. Some pillars of excellent workmanship, and most durable stone, every one ornamented in a different manner, and covered in by a beautiful arch, are still to be seen. There are also some semicircular vaults, one of which seems to have been a place of worship, as there is a row of stone-benches all round it, and nigh the entrance two basons cut out in the stone, probably for holding holy water, as the bust of the  
Virgin,

\* The reason why I do not mention the fishers in my description of the people, is, that they are all either tradesmen or labourers, and follow their occupation when the fishing is over.



Virgin, with the Holy Child in her arms, stood in a niche above them. This bust was dug out of the ruins some years ago, and given to Mr David Martin, painter and antiquarian. There are also the ruins of the church, and what appears to have been a small chapel upon the end of a house, within the precincts of the Abbey, where Lord Balmerino sometimes resided. This Abbey was begun by Alexander II. and his mother Emergarda, daughter to the Earl of Baumont, and widow of William, surnamed the Lion, in the year 1229. This lady in the year 1215, purchased the lands of Balmurenach, Cultrach, and Balindean, from Richard de Rule, for 1000 merks Sterling, upon which ground they founded the monastery near the shore, about 8 English miles above where the Tay empties itself into the bay of St Andrew's. It is pleasantly situated upon the banks of the Tay, noted for their romantic shelving and perpetual verdure, and commands a beautiful view of the river, with Dundee, and the rich vale of the Carle of Gowry on the opposite shore. It has a small running water to the east of it, which turns a mill, and runs through a den or glen, well stocked with venerable trees, consisting of ash, beech, elm, &c. In the old garden there is a chestnut-tree, the bole of which measures 15 feet in the girth, and not above 5 feet to the setting out of the branches, two of which run horizontally the whole length of the chapel, formerly mentioned, standing at the end of the house. A beech-tree was measured to 12 feet 7 inches in the girth; and an elm to 7 feet 9 inches, their height from 30 to 40 feet. It is well sheltered from the north-east wind by the Scurr hill, which rises to a great height above the river, has Naughton on the east, and Birkhill on the west, both of them modern houses, with rising pleasure grounds of considerable extent. At this last place there is, besides some extensive plantations lately made, a considerable



able coppice wood, extending above a mile along the banks of the Tay, consisting mostly of oak, and in which there are several groves of beech and oak, which may now be reckoned tolerable timber \*.

\* The abbey-church, wherein Queen Emergarda is said to be buried, *ante magnum altere*, served as the parish-church till the year 1595, when it was removed to the east side of the Den; it stands upon a little eminence. The manse was likewise in or near the abbey, till some time after the year 1618, when a house, built of that date by T. and J. Chrichton, whose names and arms are still to be seen on stones that stood on the storm-windows, was given in lieu of it. This abbey belonged to the Cistercian or Bernardine Monks, was dedicated to St Edward, and, as all the other houses of this order were, to the Virgin Mary also. It seems to have been well endowed. David de Lindsay gave to it an annuity out of his mill in Kirkbuet, in the year 1233; Simon de Kinnear gave to it Little or Wester Kinnear, in the 22d year of Alexander's reign; and Corbeck, signifying a den with birks, or Birk-hill, as it is now called, was given to it by Laurentius de Abernethy. The preceptory of Gadvan, in the parish of Dunbog, also belonged to it.—After the Reformation, King James VI. erected Balmerino into a temporal lordship, in favour of Sir James Elphinston of Barnton, then Principal Secretary of State, on the 20th of April 1604.—There are also two places in the parish, one of them called the Battle-law to this day, where the Scots are supposed to have given battle to the Danes, after their retreat from Luncarty, where they again defeated, and forced them to fly with precipitation on board their ships, then lying in the mouth of the Tay. One of the places was dug up a few years ago, at the desire of two gentlemen, where they found some stone coffins and arms, or pieces of broken swords; but no further discoveries have since been made.—The dates of the abbey, and the gifts made to it, are taken from Sibbald's History of Fife, and Hope's Minor Practics.



NUMBER XVII.

PARISH OF CLUNIE,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM M'RITCHIE.

*Situation and Extent\*.*

THE church of Clunie, near the centre of the parish, and of that district of Perthshire called the Stormont, stands nearly on the same parallel with Lord Privy-Seal's observatory on the lawn at Belmont castle, about  $56^{\circ} 35'$  N. latitude, and nearly  $2'$  W. longitude from the meridian of Perth. Its distance from Dunkeld is about 6 miles E. by N. and its distance from Perth is about 15 miles N. by W. The parish is of an irregular figure, extending about 9 miles from N. W. where it rises, to the summit of the

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\* This account includes certain grounds, which properly belong to the parish of Caputh. As they lie at a distance from their own parish-church, the inhabitants of those places were, by the presbytery of Dunkeld, in 1728, recommended, *quoad sacra*, to the inspection of the then minister of Clunie. They contain about 80 inhabitants, and pay about L. 140 Sterling rent.



lower tire of the Grampian mountains, to S. E. where it stretches downwards into Strathmore to the neighbourhood of the Roman encampment at Meiklour. Its greatest breadth is about 4 miles from N. E. to S. W.; and it is intersected towards the S. E. by a small arm of the parish of Caputh.

*Name and Language.*—The English language has made considerable progress here among the better sort of people, since the Union of the Scottish and English crowns; but the vulgar still continue to speak the Scotch, a dialect of the Dano-Saxon, which was brought from the other side of the German Ocean, by the Danish invaders of the ninth and eleventh centuries. Some of the people who border on the Highlands, have a smattering of, and retain a predilection for the Gaelic or Celtic, which seems to have been the original language of the whole island. Of this language there are many traces here, particularly in the names of places; which names either mark the local situation, or refer to some transaction that has taken place there in distant times. For example, *Clunie*, which has time immemorial been the name of the parish, is the modern orthography of the old Celtic word *Cluaine*, which signifies, “plain green pasture between woods:” A plain, green pasture, called the Meadow, lies a little to the north of the church; on the north side of this plain, there is still natural wood growing, and on the south side of the plain, we find vestiges of old trees in a small moss or mire, which makes a part of the glebe\*.

*Surface,*

\* *Stron*, situated at the entrance of the hill of Clunie, signifies the “nose, promontory, or heel of the hill.” *Dullatir*, (in Gaelic, *Duillea-tire*, the “black, bleak half side of the country,”) lies in the heath, on a high, cold, northern exposure, perfectly corresponding to its name.

*Balvedock,*



*Surface, Soil, Climate, Diseases.*—The superficial area of the parish has not been measured, nor has any particular map of it been yet attempted. It contains probably upwards of 8000 acres of mountain, moss, heath, wood, water, arable and pasture. The arable parts, which have of late been considerably extended by industry, comprehended, in summer 1791, about 2555 acres. The surface of the ground is uneven, and not disagreeably diversified. The lowest parts are perhaps not more than 150 feet, and the highest are perhaps not less than 1800 feet above the level of the sea: Accordingly the soil and climate are various. The mountainous parts are cold, rocky and heathy, fit only for sheep and goats; the latter of which are entirely banished, and the former reduced, comparatively, to a very small number. Contiguous to the mountains, are large tracts of black, bleak barren moors, where the heath is in some places interspersed with bent, affording subsistence to about 200 small Scotch cattle, and about 1000 small Scotch sheep. These tracts are in general too rough and wild to admit of the plough; it appears, however, that some spots of them have been cultivated by the Caledonians of old, when the lower parts of the parish were covered with wood. Many of these barren heaths may, in future times, be crowned with beautiful plantations of the fir

*Balvedock*, (Gaelic, *Baile-feadoig*,) means, “the village of the grey plover,” which bird frequently haunts the adjoining moor. *Baldornock*, (Gaelic, *Baile-dornog*,) denotes, the “village of small round stones, such as one can take up in one’s fist;” and vast numbers of such stones are on the surface of the ground of Baldornock, and its neighbourhood. *Tullaneidy*, (Gaelic, *Tullach-neid*): *Tullach*, signifies a “small hill or knock,” near which Tullaneidy stands; *neid*, signifies a “battle” or “wound, received in a battle;” and an ingenious antiquary is just now making out a map of this part of the country, wherein he places Tullaneidy near the scene of the great action between Galgacus and Agricola. This circumstance will be alluded to under the article of Antiquities.



fir kind, particularly the larix, which, if not planted in water, will thrive in almost any elevation or exposure. In many parts, especially about the middle of the parish, the soil is light, sandy and stony; here, where it is not cultivated, it is covered either with short heath, furze, broom or brushwood; but, where it is properly improved, being naturally dry and warm, it yields early and good crops. In the vallies and lower declivities of the district, the soil is, for the most part, an excellent well pulverized mixture; producing, either with lime or marl, or even with a competency of common manure, as good barley, oats, pease, turnip and potatoes, as any part of this neighbourhood. The oat-feed time begins about the end of March, and the bear-feed is finished about the 10th of June; harvest commences about the 10th of September, and terminates about the 20th of October, in ordinary seasons. In the hilly parts, both feed-time and harvest are a fortnight later. The air is good, and the inhabitants are generally healthy, and live to a considerable age; several persons exceed 80, some exceed 90, and a few have reached near 100 years. In winter, the hoarfrost often sits heavy on the lower grounds, where the degree of cold is then greater than on the tops of the mountains. The E. and N. E. winds of that season frequently bring snow or rain, or mist from the German ocean; and it is here observed, that these winds occasion some dullness or depression of the animal spirits; whereas, on the contrary, it is remarked, that the W. and N. W. winds, which blow hither through a pure, unclouded atmosphere, and over a boundless extent of high, heathy mountains, seldom fail to bring along with them good health and good spirits. The truth of this last observation is oftentimes experienced by the stranger from the low country, who goes to the highlands for air and exercise, particularly in the summer months, when the heath is in bloom. He respire with unusual ease, his spirits rise, and he



he descends to the plain not without some reluctance. The W. and N. W. winds are peculiarly agreeable and advantageous here in autumn. In that chearful laborious season, our anxious husbandman throws a wishful look to the N. W. and pointing to some well known summit of the Grampian mountains, raises his heart and his hand to heaven, and prays that the wind may never shift from that particular quarter, till his own and his neighbour's fields are cleared. There are here no local diseases. Colds and sore throats are pretty frequent in winter. The ague is unknown, and the gout and rheumatism occur very rarely. The measles prove sometimes destructive, and also the small-pox, taken in the natural way. Numbers have, of late years, been inoculated, and of these only one died. Happily for the looks as well as for the constitutions of the rising generations, the practice of inoculation is becoming more general, the prejudices against it are every day giving way, and the more rational part of the people begin to feel a becoming gratitude to heaven for having been pleased to communicate to mankind such an important discovery. When a fever comes here, it generally attacks numbers. This is owing in a great measure to the temerity of those, who, from friendly intentions, visit the patient; but who, without observing the proper caution, rush upon his breath, imbibe the contagion, and communicate it from house to house, and from village to village. This conduct is to be ascribed partly to ignorance, and partly to religious prejudice, both of which are happily giving place to more sensible and enlightened views of things.

*Mountains, Lakes, Brook, Fishes.*—Ben-achally, towards the N. W. part of the parish, is the highest mountain. It stands on an elevated basis, and commands a very extensive prospect. From the top of Ben-achally, in a clear day, you  
see



see on the S. W. the W. the N. W. the N. and N. E. the higher Grampians towards Argyleshire, Badenach and Mar; on the E. the S. E. and S. you have a view of the whole extent of Strathmore, from the neighbourhood of Stonehive to that of Stirling, and this great Strath, bordered on the opposite side by the Sidla and Ochil hills; beyond the latter, you perceive the Pentlands, a little to the S. W. of Edinburgh; and, thence directing your eye eastward to the side of the Lomond hill at Falkland, you may descry pretty distinctly the eastern termination of the Soutra hills, in the neighbourhood of Haddington, rising like small blue clouds in the verge of the horizon. The height of Ben-achally has not been ascertained, and the elevation of its base detracts much from its apparent altitude. Birnam, celebrated in the tragedy of Macbeth, stands about 5 miles S. by W. of Ben-achally, and the height of Birnam has been taken, 1580 feet above the level of the sea. Supposing this measurement to be accurate, Ben-achally should not be overstated at 1800 feet above the same level, since, to the naked eye, it appears considerably higher than Birnam.

At the foot of Ben-achally, on its north side, in the forest of Clunie, (said to have been once a royal forest, and now the property of the Duke of Atholl), lies the loch of Ben-achally, extending about a mile from W. to E. and about half a mile from N. to S. at its west end. Its greatest depth 11—12 fathoms, is towards the foot of the mountain; and if we compute the height of the mountain as above, the surface of the loch may be supposed not less than 900 feet above the level of the sea. In the loch are some eels; and it abounds with trouts, which in general are small. We have seen some of them 1—2 lb. weight; sometimes they are caught of a large size. In a calm summer evening, they spring in such numbers to the flies, that the whole surface of the water appears to be dancing.

Here,



Here, as on the other Highland lochs in its neighbourhood, the best time of taking the trout, is a dark windy day, in June, July, or August, or, which is equally proper, any calm warm night in that season; and for the night-fishing, you must use an artificial fly, of a white or very bright grey colour. There is here no angling of any consequence, owing principally to the want of a boat. About 30 years ago, Mr Patrick Simpson, then minister of Clunie, who was a very expert angler, as well as a very respectable clergyman, caused make and carry up hither, at his own expense, a small fishing-boat, which, however, soon after his death, fell to pieces, having no shed to screen it from the winter storms. A mile to the westward of Loch-Ben-achally, and still nearer the tops of the mountains, is Loch-nachat, a small loch, full of fine trouts.

About 4 miles S. E. of Loch-Ben-achally, and on a level, perhaps 700 feet lower, lies the loch of Clunie, a beautiful piece of water, somewhat of the form of a blunted equilateral triangle, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in circumference. Its surface is probably not more than 80 feet above the confluence of the Tay and Ila, which last is only 93 feet above the level of the sea. Its greatest depth is about 84 feet, and lies on the N. side towards the highest bank. The ground rises from the loch all around, with a bold slope, and is in a tolerable state of cultivation. The W. and N. W. banks are pretty much decorated with verdure and plantation; and had the opposite banks a little more of the aid of ornament, which in all probability they will soon have, this loch would be one of the first natural beauties of the country. About 200 yards from its western shore, there is a small but pleasant island, near the centre of which stands an old castle, in good repair, an occasional summer residence of the Earl of Airly, who is superior of the loch, proprietor of the barony of Clunie, and first heritor of the parish.



parish. Around the verge of this island are old ashes and planes, that have withstood the storms of some hundred years, yet still continue to vegetate. These trees have something venerably grotesque in their appearance. The trunk of some of the planes separates and unites again, (forming a large distinct aperture), as do also some of the larger branches. The trees, in some places, diverge considerably from the land, leaning across the water, over which their aged arms embrace, and the roots of the planes are incorporated with those of the ashes, in such a manner, as if they were determined to stand and fall together. In the sultry heats of summer, these trees throw a cool refreshing umbrage over the island, intercepting the rays of the sun, which otherwise, being strongly reflected from the water, would prove hurtful to the tender eye. The island itself is a plain carpet of green, interspersed with a few flowering shrubs, where the fairies, in the times of superstition, were wont to hold their moonlight assemblies.

In the loch of Clunie there is plenty of pike, perch, trout, and eel. The eels are sometimes caught here of a considerable size, but they are generally a troublesome capture, as they are apt to knot and warp the line in an inextricable manner. In bright sunny days, when they come out near the shore, and are distinctly seen at the bottom of the shallow water, they are sometimes struck with the eel-spear, which affords an agreeable amusement. The trouts here grow from 4 lb. to 12 lb. weight, but are seldom taken except on the set line, or in the net. Vast numbers of the young fry, both of the trout and perch, are devoured by the pike. The perches here are numerous, but generally small, and they are caught in the usual manner with the rod. Their best bait is the common red worm, or a small minnow, and they take very well here in June, July and August. The pike-fishing begins about the end of March,  
and



and though the pikes are supposed to be in best season in March, April and May, during which time they bite most greedily, yet they are in very good season in autumn, and even in winter, provided they could be then taken with equal ease. Their best spring bait is a skinned frog, or rather a fresh burn trout about 6 or 7 inches long; and their common summer bait is a cutting of a skinned eel, or a skinned perch. Pikes have been killed in the loch of Clunie from 12 lb. to 24 lb. or even 30 lb. weight, but the ordinary size is from 2 lb. to 6 lb. They are commonly taken either with the set line, or by *trowling*, that is, with the rod and wheel, dragging a considerable length of line with a large artificial fly or baited hook at the farther end of it; and in order to *trowl* with success, it is necessary that the surface of the water should be curled by a gentle breeze, and that the boat should be kept all the while in a pretty brisk motion, rather in opposition to the wind than otherwise\*.

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Birds,

\* Here are no rivers, but some considerable burns or brooks, the Lorny, the Droothy, the Buckny, and the Lunan. The Lorny flows from the Loch of Ben-achally, runs about 6 miles E. S. E. through the hilly parts of the parishes of Clunie, Kinloch, and Blairgowrie, and, having turned five mills in its course, falls into the river Eright, a little above the Caith, a curious fall of the river, a little above the village of Blairgowrie. The burn of Droothy rises from the moirs of Ben-achally, separates the barony of Laighwood from the forest of Clunie, and the barony of Forneth, and, after a rapid course of about 3 miles to the S. E. empties itself into the Lunan. The Buckny takes its rise from Loch-na-chat, and falling to the S. E. between the mountains of Ben-achally and Deuchara, forms the Doo-loch; thence, increased by the springs of the Doo-loch, it thunders down a deep, narrow, rocky den, covered with wild wood, (called the Den of Richip), and, separating the parishes of Caputh and Clunie, it enters the latter in the park of Laighwood, where it unites with the Lunan. The Lunan itself is by far the most considerable stream in the parish. Collected from different sources in the Grampians, a little to the north of Dunkeld, it proceeds eastward, and forms the lochs of Craiglash, of Lows, of Butterstone, of Clunie, and of Drumelly. From this  
last,



*Birds and Beasts.*—We have here most of the birds peculiar to the inland parts of the northern kingdom; a catalogue of which is unnecessary. Birds of prey are frequent, such as the sparrow-hawk, the grey-hawk or hen-harrier, the kite, and the large buzzard: The eagle has been seen, though seldom, in the neighbourhood of Ben-achally. The singing birds are numerous; the linnet, the bullfinch, the blackbird, the starling, and the thrush, &c. The hollow moaning of the stock-dove gives a solemnity to the concert of the groves. The notes of the wood-lark are heard, delightful, along the banks of the Lunan in spring and autumn; its nocturnal song has a dying cadence peculiarly melodious, and has often been mistaken for the song of Philomel. Of the migratory birds, we have, in their proper seasons, the caprimulgus or goatfucker, the land-rail, the golden crested wren,

last, it directs its course to the S. E. and, passing by the Roman encampment near Meiklour, it increases the river Ila, about half a mile N. E. of the Prætorium, and nearly 2 miles N. E. of the junction of the Ila and the Tay. The course of the Lunan is about 12 miles long, and somewhat resembling a bended bow; and, in this course, it forms the five beautiful sheets of water above mentioned, passes under five stone bridges, turns one cloth-mill, 3 flax-mills, and 10 corn-mills; and divides the Stormont into two parts, nearly equal. The trouts of the Lunan are excellent, and, both in point of size, form, and flavour, much superior to those of the hill-brooks described above. This is owing to its waters being deeper, warmer, and better sheltered; and to its passing over rich, clayey, and marly bottoms. It is difficult to angle upon the Lunan in many places, particularly above the loch of Clunie, on account of the natural wood overhanging the stream. At some of the falls of the Lunan, are placed arks or perforated chests, for the purpose of catching the eels. These fish run down from loch to loch, in vast numbers, especially with the westerly wind, in the dark nights of October, and are taken by hundreds in these arks. The eels are best in that season of the year, and their skins are then valuable to the farmer for making whangs or bindings to his flails. Some of the common people here, on spraining an ankle or a wrist, apply to the wound the skin of an eel, to which they ascribe a peculiar virtue. In this parish, there is no fish caught for sale.



wren, the lapwing, the swallow and martin, the stone-chatter, the cuckoo and tit-lark, the fieldfare and snow-flight, and sometimes, as in November 1791, the Bohemian chatterer and butcher-bird. The sandy-lark haunts our lochs in summer, and great number of sea mews, pitarnies and gulls, come up in the spring. The aquatic fowls of the country abound here; we have the wild-duck, the widgeon, the smaller and larger teal, and the water-rail. The wild-geese rest here, though rarely, on their passage; and likewise the wild swans, (perhaps 12 or 18 of them together), in their way to or from Loch Spynie near Elgin, their great place of rendezvous; a few of them generally remain on the Stormont lochs all the summer. The cormorant, here called the *scart*, frequents the island in the loch of Clunie, and sometimes the osprey, but neither has been known to build there. The herons used to hatch in numbers on the trees of the island, but not since the late reparation of the castle. Of the sucker-birds, the snipe nestles here, the woodcock comes in October, and departs in February or March; and the curlew visits us in spring and autumn. We have plenty of the grey plover, and common grouse in our moors, and the black-cock begins to make his appearance among our plantations. The partridge nestles in almost every clover field, where, sometimes the poor dam, while she sits on 18 or perhaps 24 eggs, has her head cut off by the scythe; a disaster the more to be regretted, as it cannot be prevented unless her nest be discovered and marked before the hay-cutting begins. The pheasant was common here some years ago, being introduced at Dunkeld by the Athole family. It became so tame, as frequently to join the domestic fowls in the barn-yard, and often there its tameness proved fatal to it. It was also a good mark, and an easy prey to the poacher, and in spring its eggs being deposited rather carelessly, were, before hatching, eaten  
up



up by the grey-hawk or the squirrel, so that its whole race seems now to be exterminated from this parish and neighbourhood. The wild quadrupeds here are also numerous. We have the urchin or hedge-hog, the weazel, the pole-cat, the wild-cat, the badger, the fox, the rabbit, the hare, the otter, &c. The common brown squirrel begins to breed in the woods; it was also introduced at Dunkeld by the late Duke of Athole, and has unfortunately done much harm to the singing birds. A few roes haunt the park of Laighwood; and, in distressing winters, the red deer appear in the forest of Clunie, and in the higher parts of the district.

*Plants.*—Here the botanist will find but few of the rarer indigenous plants: If, however, pleasure or curiosity should lead him this way in July or August, he may take a morning sail on the loch of Clunie; while he steers his barge slowly by “those deep beds of whispering reeds,” that in some places, grow so thick as to seem almost impervious, he will observe, among other water-plants, the lobelia-dortmanna, for which the Stormont lochs are remarkable. He will also find the bullrush, the equisetum fluriatile (water horse-tail), the surpus, (rush-grass), and a variety of the potamogiton, (pond-weed): But his eye will be charmed by the luxuriant appearance of the nymphæa lutea and alba, (white and yellow water lilly), blended together over the surface of the water, and arrayed in a splendor superior to “Solomon’s in all his glory \*.” Having passed the calm sunny morning among these his aquatic companions, the admirer of vegetable nature may betake himself to the adjoining manse, and there breakfast with an humble country clergyman on tea, bread and butter, and water-creffes. After this,

\* Mr Arthur Bruce, of the Natural History Society, first observed here the *Isoëtis Lincestris*, in summer 1792.



this, he and the parson may walk forth together along the meadow of Clunie, till they come to the bank of the Lunan. Here, turning their faces westward, let them enter "the windings of the woody vale;" let them trace up the borders of the Lunan; let them examine the park of Laigh-wood, and ascend the den of Richip\*, and thus saunter away the heat of noon "among the lowly children of the shade." Leaving the woody den, let them hie to the heathy hill; let them climb the brow of Ben-achally, where they will find plenty of the *arbutus uva-ursi*, (bear-berry), and there also they may taste the delicious juice of the *vacinium*, *vitis idæa*, (the whortle berry, or Highland breigh-lac). From Ben-achally, let them direct their wandering steps N. W. to Craigsheal, and dine on simple, hospitable fare in the most distant and most Celtic habitation of the parish. Thence let them bend their course to Lochnachat, and from that northwards along the summits of the hills, picking up here and there a plant of the *rubus chamaemorus*, (the averan or Highland oidh'rac); and, if its fruit be ripe, they will find it very refreshing. Wheeling about to the right, at the north western extremity of the district, let them descend through the forest along the Brannatire; where, if fatigued and thirsty, they may pause a moment, and regale themselves with the fruit of the *empetrum-nigrum*, (crow-berry), that grows there in abundance. Proceeding S. E. along the hill, if they mark well, they may have the happiness of finding a specimen of the white-flowering heath, which they may clap into their botanical box, if by this time it can hold it. When they get down to the Craig of Forneth, provided they have not left the sun and light of day behind them, they may there gather  
and

\* In this den they will find the *Convallaria Verticillata*, a rare and beautiful plant.



and eat a few juniper-berries by way of a stomachic; and when they arrive at the parsonage of Clunie in the dusk, they will feel an appetite for supper, after which they may expect to enjoy very comfortable and refreshing slumbers. In this day's excursion, the pupil of Linnæus will have that general view of our Flora, which the time and space prescribed to this memoir will not allow its author to particularize.

The *erriophorum vaginatum* and *erriophorum polystachium*, (cotton-grass), whitens our mosses. The sheep are said to be very fond of it in the spring before it flowers, when it is believed to be very good for them: This is the "down of Cana," of Ossian, and forms a beautiful simile in his justly-celebrated poems. It carries a large filamentous flower, whiter and softer than cotton, and its filament makes an admirable object for microscopical observation. The *menyanthes trifoliata*, (marsh-trifol), abounds on the skirts of our lochs and mires; early in the spring, it throws up a beautiful flower with five fringed petals: This plant is used in decoction and infusion, and is reckoned a good antiscorbutic. The *athamanta meum*, (spignel), here called *moiken* or *muilcionn*, grows in the higher parts of the barony of Laighwood, and in the forest of Clunie. The Highlanders chew the root of it like liquorice or tobacco. It is best in winter and spring, before its radical leaves appear. It flowers in June and July, and grows in great plenty in some of the glens to the northward of this, particularly in Glenshee, Glenbeg, and Glencluny, by the sides of the Mar-road. The root of this plant, when dried and masticated, throws out strong effluvia, which are thought a powerful antidote against contagious air, and it is recommended by some in goutish and gravelly complaints. The *vaccinium myrtillus*, (blae-berry), of which excellent jam may be made, and the *fragaria*, (wild straw-berry), grow  
in



in several places here in great abundance, as also the *trientalis Europæa*, and the *polygonum viviparum*, &c.

*Shrubs and Trees.*—The *juniperus communis* was mentioned under the article of plants, a good deal of it grows here, and to the westward, on the base of the hills. Sometimes the poor people gather the fruit of it in considerable quantities, and carry it to Dundee, where they sell it at about 1 s. the peck. When it is ripe, they spread a cloth under the branch, and beat down the berries with a stick. A little of this fruit taken in the morning before breakfast, is said to be *as good as a dram*; probably it is much better, being an excellent stomachic. The smoke of the juniper is thought to be destructive to moths and bugs, none of the latter of which are ever found in this part of the country. Some of the common people here make an infusion of the juniper-berry, which they use for tea; perhaps it might be, in many cases, a good substitute for Bohea, and fully as conducive both to health and to strength. Being in every form a powerful diuretic, it is highly proper to be used in every case where there are any indications of a calcareous diathesis. The broom abounds here: It blooms in June; and at that time, the butter, made from the milk of the cows that feed upon its blossoms, partakes in a high degree of their beautiful tincture. The furze is also frequent, of which horses are exceedingly fond in winter; and while they feed on it, it is observed, that they never catch cold. On the banks of the Lunan, there is a shrub, here called the hack-berry, (*prunus padus*) that carries beautiful flowers, which are succeeded by a cluster of fine blackberries; they are sweet and luscious to the taste, but their particular qualities are not known. In the parish of Laighwood we meet with plenty of the black sloe, which ripens here in October and November: The common people eat  
it



it plentifully, (swallowing the stone along with the pulp,) esteeming it a good pectoral, and useful in pulmonary and asthmatic complaints. The park of Laighwood produces also the *viburnum opulus*, or water elder, the hawthorn, the hipthorn, the wild rasp, and the bramble in varieties. In some places the sweet-brier is found. The park of Laighwood was famous for hazel-nuts, superior in taste, though not in size, to the Spanish nuts. There also we find the forest-crab in varieties; in some places it bears pretty large and beautiful apples, nearly of the size of oslins: Some of these plants appear to have sprung from the seed of grafted apples, stolen from the garden or orchard by the wild birds. We have likewise the *myrica* \*, (gale), and varieties of the *salix* or willow-tribe.—The larger indigenous trees of the district are the alder, along the wet grounds; the bark of it is useful in dying purple; and were this wood thinned in proper time, and permitted to grow to a proper size, it would make beautiful and durable flooring for rooms, being previously sawed out to a due thickness, laid under moss-water for about six weeks, and then dried in the shade. We have also the holly, so valuable in veneering; of the bark of which the best bird-lime is made: In the park of Laighwood it rises in large copses, owing to its branches spreading along the wet ground, and striking root at the joints. These copses form agreeable objects in the winter snow, and are very carefully preserved by the noble proprietor, the Duke of Athole. The birch is a native here, and also the narrow leaved service, the ash, the plane, and the oak, of which last the bark is so useful in the tanning of leather. The oak wood of this country is cut down once every 20 or 24 years, by the wood cutting companies, who purchase it, with

\* Used in decoction by the Highlanders, as an antidote against worms.



with certain reservations, from the proprietors, and send the bark to a great distance, to Dundee, Forfar, Brechin, &c. where the tanners receive it generally at the rate of 10d. or 1s. the stone weight. The wood-cutters do not draw such profits from this business now, as they did formerly, owing partly to the proprietors of the oak becoming of late more sensible of its value, partly to different companies setting up in opposition to one another, and partly to some of the members of the same company not paying due attention to their particular departments; by which means the company at large sometimes sustains very material losses. It is therefore probable, that this trade will soon fall into the hands of the proprietors themselves; and that the wood cutters, who have generally farms, from which this business draws off their attention in the summer months, will find their account in abandoning it, and in betaking themselves to the less precarious occupation of cultivating and improving their possessions \*.

VOL. IX.

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*Seats,*

\* The natural wood of this parish is much decayed. In many banks, and angles of fields, it has very properly given way to the plough. The cattle are generally permitted to browse the infant shoots, and thereby to retard their growth. The stunted stems having, after a struggle of several years, got above the reach of the cattle, are suffered to rise in too great numbers on one stock; which greatly hurts the quality, as well as diminishes the quantity of the bark. The wood being so frequently cut, and the stocks laid bare, the rise of the natural juices is thereby lessened or prevented. Besides, it may be supposed that, independent of the natural duration of the particular species of wood, according to the nature of the soil that bears it, the ground that produces trees, like the ground that successively produces any other exhausting crop, must, in a certain number of years, become wasted and fatigued, and consequently must require a certain period of repose, before it be able to produce such crops again. To some such causes as these, it must be owing, that this country does not produce one half of the natural wood now, that it appears to have produced some hundred years ago.



*Seats, Gardens and Plantations.*—Of the first, there are three that merit description. Forneth, the seat of Thomas Elder, Esq; to whose beneficence and public spirit his friends and his country are much indebted, stands on the N. W. bank of the loch of Clunie, on a fine elevation, commanding a small, but beautiful prospect of the island, the loch, and the adjacent grounds. The Lunan, washing, in gentle meanders, the foot of the bank, steals softly into the loch, a little below the house. The bank itself, covered with verdure, and interspersed with trees, has an easy and elegant slope from the house to the surface of the water, which, expanding itself into a large translucent plain, gives the inverted landscape a mild and picturesque appearance. A beautiful new garden, promising abundance of good fruit, lies warm and low at the foot of the bank, about 200 yards S. W. from the house. This garden is destined to receive within its bosom a small streamlet from the Lunan; which, after winding slowly along, and forming ponds in its course, is to have its outlet near the S. E. angle of the garden, where it will again unite with its parent stream. The house is new, elegant and commodious, sheltered with trees, and well dressed fields, that swell above one another to a considerable height. These fields have been all taken in from a rude state of nature, by the present proprietor, and his father, who was the first man that began to clear rough grounds in the higher parts of this parish. Here, about 50 years ago, little else was to be seen but broom, furze, briers, thorns and stones.—Clunie castle, on the island of the loch of Clunie, was mentioned above, as being an occasional summer residence of the Earl of Airly. It was built about the beginning of the 16th century, by George Brown, Bishop of Dunkeld, and was one of his favourite seats or palaces. It seldom fails to attract the attention of the stranger, who generally stops



stops here to see it. The most remarkable circumstances about it are, its insular situation, the thickness of its wall, (about 9 feet at the surface of the ground), and its being reckoned the birth place of the \* admirable Crichton. From the windows of the dining-room, the spectator has a pleasant view of the loch, with the house and grounds of Forneth, which are here seen to great advantage; and a wild romantic glen, stretching N. W. towards the Highlands, and terminating in a bold range of the Grampian mountains. Lord Airly sometimes resides here a few weeks during the fishing season, and has a net here, which is never used but when the family are on the island. The neighbouring gentlemen are permitted the privilege of rod-fishing and pleasure boats. On the western shore of the loch, his Lordship has a good kitchen-garden and nursery, together with an orchard, lately inclosed, and planted with a variety of fruit-trees, all in a prosperous condition.—On the other side of the hill, and about a mile and a half S. S. E. of Clunie castle, on a southern declivity, and well sheltered from every cold and stormy blast, is Gourdie, the seat of David Kinloch, Esq; It is a large, convenient and substantial house, beautifully situated; the prospect it enjoys is delightful. Immediately under your eye you see the level, rich, and well cultivated estate of Delvin, with the magnificent house of that name, rising on a woody bank about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the S. From the foot of the bank of Delvin, you behold the river Tay winding eastward in stately meanders towards Meiklour, and there receiving the Ila at the old castle of Kinclaven. In the middle scene you have a distinct view of the broadest part of Strathmore, from Birnam on your right-hand to Dunfinnan on your left; and

\* This will be more particularly taken notice of under the article of Eminent men.



and in the back ground you perceive the green summits of the Ochills, stretching westward from the neighbourhood of Perth, to where they decline at the scene of the battle of Sheriffmuir near Dunblane. Mr Kinloch, too, has done much in the way of improvement; his grounds are well laid out; his lawn has a rich appearance, and feeds excellent mutton; his garden, at the foot of the lawn, is one of the warmest and earliest in the county; and the amphitheatre of wood, that embraces the house and the lawn, is highly diversified, and produces a very agreeable effect. These gentlemen have contributed much to the melioration and embellishment of this parish. Many of its eminencies, fit for nothing else, are already planted with trees adapted to the soil; and these plantations, projected from the Grampians on the border of the Great Strath, will, in a few years hence, become grand and conspicuous objects. For the plantation on the top of the hill of Gourdy, we are indebted to the late Mr Mackenzie of Delvin, who was, without exception, the first improver of this country. Lord Airly has lately extended a broad belt of black firs, mixed with the birch and the larix, along the whole summit of the Craig of Clunie. Not many years ago, Mr Elder of Forneth inclosed and planted nearly 100 acres of the fore-hill; and this plantation, though one of the most elevated in the county, is thriving very well. From the vicinity of Perth, 16 miles to the southward, it appears a large, dark-green square, affording, in the winter snow, an agreeable relief to the eye even at that distance. Mr Elder intends to continue it along the whole extent of the hill westward, till it join the Duke of Athole's march, at the barony of Laighwood. This large wood, lined longitudinally along its summit with larixes, and crossed here and there with strips of the same, so as to shelter the com-



mon firs, &c. from the inclemencies of the N. and E. would exhibit, in a very short time, one of the most striking objects on the whole basis of the Grampian mountains. Such improvements as these, for which this parish (and many other such places in Scotland) affords abundance of room, are at once a proof of the good taste and liberal spirit of the landholders. While they beautify the country, and add warmth to the climate, they promise to contribute greatly to the comfort and conveniency of the inhabitants, by the fuel they will furnish when the peat mosses are exhausted, as well as by the wood they will supply for building and repairing their houses. At the same time, that many of our bleak and barren moors might easily be covered with pines, &c. attention might be paid to many little steep banks on the lower grounds by the side of brooks and rivulets, where neither the plough nor the cattle can reach, but where the soil is rich, and warm, and deep: These spots might be all planted with the beech, the elm, the plane, the ash, &c. which are so useful and necessary to the country in general, and to the husbandman in particular.

*State of Husbandry.*—It is only of late years that the knowledge of agriculture, and the spirit of improvement, began to display themselves in this parish. The people in general having no prospect of emolument to rouse their attention, and no example of industry set them by their superiors, squandered away their time, either in doing nothing at all, or in doing nothing to the purpose. Their grounds scratched over once a-year, without receiving half the necessary manure, and perpetually crossed with oats and barley alternately, were reduced to a *caput mortuum*. The lands were no where subdivided nor inclosed. The farmer, if he may be called so, had his crooked ridges every



ry where warped through the crooked ridges of his neighbour; and the country being open in winter as well as in summer, all things were common, and men and beasts were at liberty to prey upon one another. Happily for the place, the pleasure, and the advantage of the people, the scene has now assumed another and a better appearance. Common-ties and run-rigs are done away; the farms begin to be reduced to some form, and the marches to be streightened. Each man begins to know his own, and to have it in his power to improve it. Wet grounds are drained; rough grounds are cleared; stone-fences are built, and hedges are planted. Marl is brought from the neighbouring parishes of Kinloch and Caputh; lime from the shore of Perth; rich clays are applied to sand, and a good permanent soil formed, where there was no soil before; green crops begin to be raised, and a regular rotation of crops begins in some places to be understood. Many new implements of husbandry, common in the low country, are now introduced here; many old prejudices, that had long retarded the progress of improvement, are laid aside; and here, as in other places, the farmer begins to find his account, in following the good example of those who are wiser and more experienced than himself.—In the course of the last 40 years, (during which time there has been a considerable revolution of the property), the rents are in most places doubled, and in some places tripled, and, which was not the case before, regularly paid on a certain day. The farmers are more independent of their landlords on that account; and though in every respect the expense of living has more than kept pace with the rise of the rents, it is a fact, that both themselves and their families are better lodged, better dressed, and better fed than ever. These remarks are applicable to the tenants in general, and they are particularly applicable to a few, leading, active, and sensible men, who are happily distributed in different departments of the district, and who



who have both the inclination and the power to set an example of judicious industry to their more indolent and less intelligent neighbours. Such men as these are of great consequence, especially in a corner of the country, where the farming, notwithstanding what has been said in its behalf, is still to be considered as only in a state of infancy. They have a claim to protection and encouragement from their landlords in particular, with whom they co-operate in every liberal plan of improvement, and they acquire a title to the gratitude of the community at large, by making corn and grass grow, where neither grass nor corn ever grew before. The valued rent of the parish is about L. 4000 Scots money. The real rent is not so easily ascertained, as a good deal of it is paid in victual, &c. Computing the victual, however, at about 15s. the boll, which is nearly the medium price here for the last 7 years, the whole rent of the parish amounts to upwards of L. 2000 Sterling. We observed, that in the year 1791, the arable part of the district comprehended 2555 acres, which were then cropped as follows :

|                                                             | Acres. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| In oats and barley, each nearly in an equal quantity, - - - | 1554   |
| In pease, potatoes, and turnip, -                           | 205    |
| In flax, - - -                                              | 44     |
| In artificial grasses, - - -                                | 375    |
| In inland pasture, - - -                                    | 377    |
|                                                             | <hr/>  |
|                                                             | 2555   |

The farms in general are small : None of them rent above 100 Sterling, and the greater part of them are under L. 50. Each plough, at an average, turns annually about



27 acres; and the rent of the infield acre varies according to the quality of the soil, &c. from 10 s. to 20 s. The parish, besides supplying \* itself, exports a quantity of victual to Dunkeld and the Highlands. The staple grain is oats and barley, (about a boll of seed to the acre), each of which yields, at a medium, 4—5 returns. More green crops would be raised were there more inclosures, of which last, the great advantage is every day felt and acknowledged. The turnips are but lately introduced here, and none of them are sown in the broad-cast. The farmers are not yet sufficiently apprized of the great propriety of thinning them out in due season to proper distances in the drills, by which neglect they are prevented from swelling to their proper size. Potatoes are becoming a favourite crop, and they afford food to the people during a great part of the winter. In a few places yams † begin to be raised, of which both the horses and cows are remarkably fond. The cows, when fed with yams, give better milk than when they are fed on clover or turnips, and the yam-milk has no foreign taste. Summer-fallowing is little practised, and, by consequence, the ground is in many places foul. The couch-grass extracts the substance from the manure, and chokes the crop. Were more of the grounds inclosed, that rotation of crops, which now begins to be known and approved of, would become more general; and till this be the case, farming cannot be carried to any high degree of perfection. The following rotation, which is well known in England, and in many parts of the lowlands, has been lately tried here, on a small scale, with very considerable success. The farm,

\* Here we do not include the consumpt of four small stills, of 30 gallons each.

† The Surinam potato is here called by that name.



farm is inclosed and divided into 4 parts, nearly equal; and the history of 1-4th explains the history of the whole. First year, summer fallow, if the ground be foul; or, if clean, pease, potatoes, and turnip. Second year, all the dung of the farm, with barley and grass-seeds. Third year, grass. Fourth year, oats. Then recommence. By adhering to this plan, the oats have already yielded the 12th, and the barley the 16th return; and as no two white crops immediately succeed one another, the ground can never be exhausted.—In the higher parts of the parish, the old Scots plough is still used, with 4 horses a-breast, and the driver going backwards between the 2 middle horses. In the lower and smoother grounds, the low-country plough, with the cast-iron mould board, is becoming fashionable, drawn by 2 horses without a driver. About 30 years ago, it was not uncommon here to see 8 or 10 oxen, and 2 horses, all yoked to one plough; but there is at present no cattle-plough in the parish. The horses are of a middle size; and the single horse carts are found by experience to be preferable to the double ones. The cattle, excepting a few of a larger size that are fed in gentlemen's inclosures, are the small black Scots cattle, weighing from 16 to 24 stone. A good many of these are sold every year from the parish; but neither the cattle nor sheep trade are carried on to any extent. There are in the parish about 1018 sheep, and of these a few are of the Cheviot breed. The number of the cattle amounts nearly to 1200; but some of the smaller farms appear to be rather overstocked. There are in all about 337 horses; and attention begins to be paid to the improving of the breed of both the sheep, horses and cattle. The number of ploughs is 79, of which the greater part are the old Scotch ploughs, and the num-



ber of the carts is 243, chiefly 1 horse carts, the wheel from 48 to 52 inches diameter\*.

*Population.*—According to the return made to Dr Webster, the number of souls was then 905 —From the late extension of agriculture, and from the number of new houses, which are more than an overbalance to the number of old ones thrown down, the inhabitants have been for some time past increasing. The following enumeration was made with exactness, and holds good for November 1791.

|                    |      |                          |     |
|--------------------|------|--------------------------|-----|
| Total inhabitants, | 1037 | Average births for the   |     |
| Males, - - -       | 503  | last 7 years, -          | 28  |
| Females, - - -     | 534  | Ditto, deaths for ditto, | 18  |
| Under 6 years, -   | 162  | Ditto, marriages for do. | 10  |
| From 6 to 30, -    | 502  |                          |     |
| — 30 — 60, -       | 297  | Families, -              | 144 |
| — 60 — 70, -       | 52   | Average persons to       |     |
| — 70 — 80, -       | 18   | each family, -           | 6—7 |
| — 80 — 90, -       | 5    | Average children to      |     |
| — 90 — 100, -      | 1    | ditto, - -               | 4—5 |
|                    |      | Subtenants,              |     |

\* The wages of a mason a-day is 1 s. 10 d.; of a carpenter, 1 s. 6 d.; of a day-labourer, from 10 d. to 1 s.; of a reaper, in harvest, 1 s.; of a tailor, 8 d. The following table exhibits a comparative view of the expence of living here in the years 1740 and 1791.

|                                     | 1740.     | 1791.                 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| The annual wages of a male-servant, | L. 1 10 0 | L. 7 10 0 — L. 10 0 0 |
| of a female-servant,                | 0 12 0    | 3 0 0 — 3 10 0        |
| Price of a farm-horse, - -          | 4 0 0     | 18 0 0                |
| of a fat Highland cow, -            | 1 10 0    | 4 10 0                |
| of a good sheep, - -                | 0 2 6     | 0 12 6                |
| of a good hen, - -                  | 0 0 2½    | 0 0 10                |
| a dozen of eggs, - -                | 0 0 1     | 0 0 3                 |
| a cart or coup, - -                 | 0 14 0    | 4 10 0                |
| a plough, - -                       | 0 4 6     | 2 2 0                 |

Other articles of living, and implements of husbandry, are nearly in the same proportion as stated in the preceding table, and most of them rising.



|                         |     |                        |   |   |    |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------|---|---|----|
| Subtenants, including   |     | Slater,                | - | - | 1  |
| their families,         | 254 | Butcher,               | - | - | 1  |
| Men servants,           | 95  | Millers,               | - | - | 5  |
| Maid servants,          | 59  | Gardeners,             | - | - | 3  |
| Wrights, incl. apprent. | 21  | Day-labourers,         | - | - | 6  |
| Masons, do.             | 11  | Distillers of whisky,  | - | - | 4  |
| Weavers, do.            | 37  | Excise-officer,        | - | - | 1  |
| Shoemakers, do.         | 9   | Small inn-keepers,     | - | - | 2  |
| Tailors, do.            | 4   | Small shop-keepers,    | - | - | 2  |
| Smiths, do.             | 4   | Clergyman,             | - | - | 1  |
| Flaxdressers,           | 4   | Schoolmaster,          | - | - | 1  |
| Tanner,                 | 1   | Residing heritors,     | - | - | 3  |
| Dyer,                   | 1   | Non-residing heritors, | - | - | 10 |

The inhabitants, excepting one born in England, are all natives of Scotland, and mostly of the parish. With regard to their religious persuasions, they are all of the Established Church, except 2 old Scotch Episcopalians, and 4 of the Church of England. There are a few Seceders, principally women, who are natives of other parishes, and who endeavour to train up their children, particularly their daughters, in the principles of their own persuasion; these Seceders, old and young, may be reckoned about 20\*.

*Character of the People.*—The generality of the parishioners are disposed to honest industry and good neighbourhood. They

\* Numbers of the people reside in paltry villages, containing each from 20 to 50 inhabitants. Mr Elder has begun, in the neighbourhood of his house, a new village, on a decent plan. A few of the houses are finished, and some tradesmen are already established there. To each of the families will be allotted some portion of the adjoining ground, for the purpose of raising greens, potatoes, &c. By which means the wild bank, where the village is situated, may be soon brought into a state of high cultivation; and the village itself may, in a short time, become a place of some consequence. At any rate, such attempts to improve the country, are highly commendable.



They are obliging and hospitable, chearful, contented, and charitable. There is no dissenting meeting-house in the parish. Excepting a very few, who seem to be tossed about with every wind of doctrine, the people are united and settled in their religious opinions. They seem to have less of the form than of the power of godliness, and to entertain pretty liberal and enlightened ideas with respect to both natural and revealed religion. Seldom are any of them guilty of enormous outrages against the rules of morality. Murder and suicide are unknown among them. None of them, natives of this parish, has been hanged or banished these 60 years; and no person was ever known to perish here for want of bread. Few of the young men join the army or the navy. The martial spirit of their forefathers has subsided, and the target and the broad sword have given place to the ploughshare and the sickle. They are of a middle stature, and tolerably handsome figure. Whether it be owing to those more laborious exertions to which they are accustomed in their younger days, or to some other cause, their size is said to be comparatively diminished, and their bodily strength impaired. We have this on the authority of old persons still alive; but such persons are apt to be partial to the times that are past; and allowing age all the credit and respect to which it is entitled, we can no more believe that our worthy great-grandfathers were all giants, than that their degenerate posterity are all pigmies.—Both the men and the women have of late years improved greatly in dress and cleanliness. In their manners and customs, which on the whole are neither rude nor refined, they resemble their neighbours, the lowlanders on the one hand, and the highlanders on the other; and, like the latter, they are generally fond of the agreeable and innocent diversions of music and dancing. Their convivial entertainments, terminate sometimes, though rarely, in intoxication



tion and uproar ; but, except 2 or 3 individuals, who have unfortunately abused themselves with the spirit of whisky, they may be regarded as a temperate and sober people. They are not, as formerly, the dupes of superstitious credulity. Many old useless rites and ceremonies are laid aside. Little attention is paid to bug-bear tales : Superstitions, charms, and incantations, have lost their power. Cats, hares, magpies, and old women, cease to assume any other appearance than what nature has given them ; and ghosts, goblins, witches, and fairies have relinquished the land.

*Church, Manse, Stipend.*—It would be a credit to this country, if all the old crazy kirks and manses in it were razed to the foundation, and new ones built in a workmanlike manner, on a decent and convenient plan, and of the most substantial and permanent materials. This would occasion some expense to the present proprietors of the country, who in general are opulent and liberal ; but what it would take out of their pockets, it would put into those of their posterity and successors to the 13th and 14th generation. The kirk of Clunie, though one of the best in the neighbourhood, has neither comeliness nor proportion. It appears to have been built about the time of the Reformation, has been since repeatedly patched, and was last repaired in 1788. The manse, like the church, is a bungled piece of architecture. It was built in 1732, and was also repaired in 1788. The stipend, including 50 merks for communion-elements, consists of 3 chalders of victual, and L. 38, 17s. Sterling. The glebe, comprehending the area of the manse, garden, and offices, contains about 6 acres of ground, which the present incumbent has inclosed with ditch and hedge. The Duke of Atholl and the Earl of Airly are vice-patrons.

*School,*



*School, Poor.*—The parochial school-house was renewed in 1788, upon a large and liberal plan, at an expense of nearly L. 100 Sterling, built of good stone and lime, covered with blue slate, and finished with the best Memel wood. A fountain of good water rises hard by, contributing much to the health of the scholars, who have also a piece of ground allotted them for air and exercise. About 60 in winter, and 30 in summer, are here instructed in the principles of reading English, writing, and arithmetic, at the low rate of 6 d. the month at an average. Some time ago it was the practice of the better sort of farmers here, to send their sons to the school a few years to learn Latin; but very little Latin is now taught in this part of the country; and such as destine their sons for the learned professions, generally send them to towns and grammar-schools. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 8 : 17 : 9 Sterling, his school-fees amount to about L. 7, he receives L. 1 for officiating as session-clerk, and about L. 1 more for proclamations, &c. so that his yearly income may be reckoned nearly L. 18 Sterling.—The poor here are all supported in their own houses, and give no trouble to the country. The number now on the poors list is from 8 to 10 old or infirm objects, to whom money is distributed monthly, in proportion to their exigencies. This money arises from the use of the mortcloth, from the occasional donations of some of the more wealthy and generous of the parishioners, from the interest of a principal of L. 70 Sterling, but chiefly from the Sunday's collections at the church door, which amount to about L. 5 each at an average. The management of the poors-money is in the hands of the kirk-session. Each elder has the inspection of the poor in his own department, and, being intimately acquainted with their situation and circumstances, cannot be supposed liable to any misapplication of the public charity. This parish not only supports  
its



its own poor in a decent manner, but also dispenses much to indigent people from the Highlands; and especially to a number of importunate vagrants from Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, &c. who crowd hither at all seasons when the weather permits them to travel. There is reason to suspect, that many of those last mentioned are not real objects of charity, but idle, profligate impostors, that ought to be confined within the walls of a bridewell. This grievance calls for redress, as no person should beg, or be permitted to beg, while Providence blesses him with the use of his reason and of his limbs.

*Mineral Springs, Minerals and Fossils.*—There is one mineral spring near the Milton of Clunie, the waters of which are sometimes used by the people of the neighbourhood as an antiscorbutic. There is another, of stronger powers, on the forest, on the south bank of the burn of Lornty, a little to the eastward of Bogmill. Its taste resembles that of the well at the South Inch of Perth, and its qualities are somewhat similar to those of the waters of Pitcaithly; but as neither of these springs has yet undergone any chymical analysis, their peculiar medicinal virtues are not fully ascertained.

The internal mineral strata have not been much investigated. On the surface of the ground there are masses of the quartz, the whinstone, the moor-stone or grey granite, the red flint with which the Caledonians pointed their arrows, and the terra ponderosa. In the grounds of Gourdie, there is a species of hard red grit, quarried in different places for the use of the proprietors. The houses of Gourdie and Delvin are built of it. It is of a very durable quality, being proof against the acid of the air, and the influence of fire. There is good limestone on the hill of Gourdie; but being of a very hard nature, it is difficult to be burned.

In



In one place, on the north side of the hill, it appears to have been dug out formerly, in considerable quantities, when there was plenty of wood in the neighbourhood; but at present, in consequence of the want of proper fuel, particularly coal, it cannot be turned to any material account. A large vein of fine blue slate extends from S. W. to N. E. along the foot of the Grampians, intersecting the parishes of Aughtergavin, Little Dunkeld, Caputh, and Clunie, in which last parish it seems to terminate. It is wrought here to some account, and sold at 18 s. to 20 s. the thousand. The Clunie slate does not split so smoothly as that of Efsdale and Laroeh, but is thought little inferior in point of colour and durability. In some places on the bank of the burn of Droothy, its laminae are found interspersed with small masses of the pyrites. The slate quarries here, though opened four score years ago, have not been carried on with much spirit or dexterity, and have contributed but little to the emolument either of the proprietor or of the tacksmen. The vein in some places is merely scratched; and where it has been struck deeper, the falling in of a little rubbish has sometimes put a stop to the operations of half a season. It may be here remarked, that the strata of the schistus seem in general to run parallel to Strathmore and the Grampians; that is, from S. W. to N. E. and to incline towards the Strath, *i. e.* towards S. E. in angles of 50 to 80 degrees\*.

*Curiosities*

\* In the hilly parts, there is plenty of good peat; though, in some of the mosses, the uppermost stratum is rather soft and spongy. Peat is also found in some of the lower parts of the district; but here it is often impregnated with sulphur or bitumen, and, when burned, throws out effluvia disagreeable to those who have been accustomed to other fuel. In most of our mosses, there are vestiges of oak, birch, and hazel. Fossil horns are sometimes found at a great depth in the moss. The head of the Urus has been dug up in this neighbourhood, as also the palmated horns of the elk, together with the horns and skeletons of large deer, supposed to



*Curiosities and Antiquities.*—Among the first, may be ranked a deep peat moss, of an excellent quality, on the very summit of Ben-achally, but such phænomena are common in the Highlands: In the face of that mountain, which looks towards the east, there is a cave of considerable magnitude, appearing at some distance like a giant dressed in short black cloaths: This cave is called the *Drap*, or *Drop*, from the water oozing through the crannies, and perpetually dropping from the roof of the cave. Below the *Drop*, and near the foot of the mountain, is a cove, called *Henry's hole*, from its having been in former times the hiding-place of some robbers or plunderers of that name. There is, in the high grounds of the park of Laighwood, another cove that has obtained the name of the *Tod's-chair*, (*Fox's-chair*), from its frequently affording a safe asylum to reinard: Here large fragments have been severed from the impending rock, probably by a thunder-bolt, and still show, by their corresponding angles, the places from which they have been detached. One of these fragments forms a sort of table at the entrance of the cave, and a seat, where the spectator enjoys a wild and romantic view of the neighbourhood. The old wall or dike of the park of Laighwood may, not improperly, be classed among the antiquities of this parish. It was built upwards of 4 centuries ago, of dry stone; is in some places 6 or 7 feet high, and 4 feet broad a-top, and notwithstanding its great age, does not appear to have un-

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dergone

to be the moose-deer. Some of these horns, which are of an amazing size, are in the custody of the Duke of Athole, and of Mr Farquharson of Invercauld.—We have mortar of a very strong adhesive nature, forming an excellent cement; and rich clay, which, when applied to a light sandy soil, has proved an excellent manure. Pipe-clay is found in the loch of Clunie, and likewise some marl, which it would be impracticable to drag, on account of the depth of the water. Marl, more accessible, may probably be discovered in some other parts of the parish, when they shall have been properly investigated.



dergone any material reparation. It incloses an area of about a square mile, which, with the barony of Laighwood, is said to have been given by Robert II. to the then Earl of Athole, for quelling an insurrection of Donald of the Isles. This park has ever since continued the property of the Athole family; and, previous to the building of Dunkeld-house, it was designed to be one of the places of their residence; some materials for that purpose were brought here, and deposited, in a fine situation near the centre of the park, at a place called Stanley-know, in honour of the Derby family. A little to the north of Stanley-know, there is a rising ground styled the Gallow-drum, and about 300 yards S. W. of the minister's glebe is another eminence, named the Gibbet-know, both which were places of execution in the times of the baronial jurisdiction. On the east side of the moss at the foot of Ben-achally, we find a sepulchral cairn, which has never been opened; and a few furlongs to the southward of this cairn, there is a great number of small cairns, which the people here call the *Pechs cairns*, i. e. the Picts cairns; but whether these cairns mark the scene of a battle between the Caledonians and the Picts, or whether they are vestiges of the huts of the old inhabitants; or whether they have been collected merely for the purpose of clearing the adjacent grounds in pastoral times, it is uncertain. There are two immense collections of stones, one on the S. W. and the other on the N. E. extremity of the parish. These are said to have marked the boundary here between the Caledonian and Pictish kingdoms; it is not unlikely, however, that they have been formed to commemorate the death of some illustrious chieftains or heroes. At the east end of the hill of Gourdie, in the middle of a cultivated field, may be seen a curious piece of antiquity, called the *Steeds-stalls*. It consists of 8 mounds, with 8 corresponding trenches; perhaps some more  
have



have been obliterated by the plough. The mounds and trenches are of equal length, alternate and parallel. At the south end of each trench or fosse, there is a circular concave, the centre of which lies in the line of the fosse, and to this circular concavity the fosse seems to have formed the entrance. It is said, that an advanced guard of the Caledonian army was posted here, to watch the motions of the Romans, when they lay encamped at Inchtuthill, about 2 miles to the southward in the plain below. The place of the Steeds stalls seems to be well calculated for such a purpose. It lies on the north side of the summit of a rising ground that separates the Highlands from the Low Country, and it looks directly northwards on those declivities of the hills, which the Caledonians are supposed to have then occupied. By stepping a few yards forward to the summit of the ground, that covered the redoubt, the Caledonian guard could distinctly mark the enemy, without the possibility of being perceived; and the intelligence could be conveyed in a few minutes to their friends on the north side of the Lutan. The Steeds-stalls is about 2 miles north of the Roman camp at Inchtuthill\*, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles W. N. W. of that at Meiklour\*, about 7 miles W. N. W. of that at Cupar Angus, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south of the Heer-cairns†, or the cairns of the battle.

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There

\* Mr Playfair, minister of Bendochy, the ingenious antiquary above mentioned, who has been at great pains to investigate the antiquities of the Stormont, is of opinion, that when Agricola fought the great battle with Galgacus, the Roman legions were probably stationed at Meiklour.

† The old Saxon word *beer*, signifies *army*. These cairns lie near the N. E. boundary of this parish, but within the limits of the parish of Kinloch; and consequently the particular description of them belongs to the history of that parish. They have long attracted the attention of the antiquary. Oral tradition affirms them to be the spot where a great battle was fought in old times; and their appearance indicates them to be the scene



There are different vestiges of chapels and cemeteries in this parish : One at Gourdie, (called the chapel of the Holy Ghost) ; another at Chapelton ; another at the Chapel-hill, a little to the north of the present church ; a 4th in the

scene of some very remote and important transaction.—However natural it may be for every Caledonian to wish to know the scene of the decisive engagement between Galgacus and Agricola, it is highly probable that that scene will never be precisely ascertained. Our only information on that subject, is derived from Tacitus, who, though he gives us a most animated description of the engagement itself, leaves us very much in the dark as to the scene of it. From him we learn only, that it must be somewhere at the foot of the *Mons Grampius* ; but every one knows that the Grampian Mountains traverse the whole extent of Scotland, from the vicinity of Aberdeen to the district of Cowal in Argyleshire. In this extensive range, there have been four different places, and these considerably distant from one another, supposed to be each of them the field of this battle.—The *first* of these is at *Fortingale*, at the foot of Glenlyon, in the very centre of the Grampians, where the vestiges of a camp, apparently Roman, are still visible. But it is not likely that such an experienced General as Agricola would have ventured to draw off his legions so far from the fleet, through the defiles of the mountains, where they would be every moment in danger of being surprised, and cut off by a bold and resolute enemy, who knew that country too well, not to take advantage of it ; and, at any rate, the scene at Fortingale is too much hemmed in by high mountains, and every way too limited, to admit of such an extensive engagement as that described by Tacitus.—The *second* spot is at *Comrie*, near the head of Strathern, where there is likewise the appearance of a Roman camp, and where the scene, indeed, is less circumscribed than the former ; but here also objections occur. The strath is narrow below and above, and the mountains rise boldly from the vale. The general face of the country does not seem to accord with many of the expressions of Tacitus ; nor does it appear well calculated for bringing into action the troops of horse, (*turmæ equitum*,) and the *currus* or *covini*, the hook-armed chariots or cars of the Caledonians, which they then used in common with the other Britons. We do not recollect, at Comrie, any remarkable appearance of tumuli, indicating the scene of such a battle. And here also the Roman army would have been too distant from the fleet, which is supposed, with great probability, to have been then riding at anchor in the mouth of the Tay.—The *third* place alleged to be the scene of the battle,



the park of Laighwood; and a 5th on the island of the Loch of Clunie, where a place of worship, dedicated to St Catharine, stood on the spot now occupied by Lord Airlley's kitchen. Before the late reparation of the castle,  
one

battle, is near *Fettercairn*, in the county of the *Mearns*. Here, indeed, the army of the Romans would not have been at such a distance from their fleet, supposing (with some) that the fleet had passed the Red-head, and was hovering somewhere off the adjacent coast. But this supposition is not so readily admissible; as the coast of Angus and Mearns, from the Red-head to Stonehive, is, in general, bold, rocky, and dangerous; and consequently rather to be shunned than courted by the Roman fleet, especially at that season of the year, which seems to have been about the autumnal equinox, when the winds might have dashed them against the rocks, or blown them out into the German Ocean. Besides, we do not find in the Mearns any piece of antiquity so likely to have been a station for the Roman legions, as the long vallum at Meiklour, now known by the name of Cleven-dike. But there seems to be one insuperable objection to the scene in the Mearns: Tacitus expressly tells us, that, immediately after the engagement, Agricola marched off his army into the country of the Horesti; "*in fines Horestorum exercitum deducit*;" and, as the Horesti were the inhabitants of Angus and Mearns, it is not at all probable that such an accurate historian as Tacitus would have used such an expression, if the battle had been fought any where within the limits of their country.—The *last* spot presumed to have been the scene of this engagement, is the *Heer-cairns*, with the grounds in their neighbourhood. This, on an attentive investigation, appears to be at least as probable a scene as any of the four. Agricola could not, perhaps, in all Strathmore, have pitched upon a more favourable station for his legions, than that large elevated plain comprehended between the Cleven-dike and the confluence of the Tay and the Isla. It is at no great distance from the mouth of the Tay, where the Roman army, in case of a defeat, might have had a more easy access to their ships. On the W. it is defended by the steep bank of the Tay, and on the S. E. and N. E. by the banks of the Isla, and of the Lunan. It commands a distinct view of the higher grounds of the Stormont, to the N. and N. W. and it looks directly westward, on the entrance into the Highlands, by Dunkeld, which was then the capital of the Caledonians, and in the vicinity of which we may suppose it would be natural for them to hold their general rendezvous on this occasion. This supposed station of the Romans is about 3 or 4 miles  
S. S. E.



one could easily perceive where the chapel had joined to it; and a few years ago, when the gardener was trenching the ground there, he dug up human bones in several places.

The

S. S. E. from that of the Caledonians at the *Buzzard-dikes*. And it seems that the Roman generals, in ancient times, (similar to the practice of the moderns), frequently sat down at such a distance from the enemy, previous to a general engagement.—The ground which the Caledonians are thought to have then assumed as the scene of their martial achievements, lies about 7 or 8 miles N. E. from Dunkeld, on the open declivities of the hills, facing the south, and commanding a full prospect of the lower Stormont and Strathmore. In several parts of this neighbourhood, the surface of the ground exhibits a singular appearance of long hilly ridges (or *drums*, answering very well to the “*colles*” of Tacitus), running parallel from W. to E. and rising above one another, like the seats of a theatre. This appearance is remarkably exemplified at the *guard-drums*, which are partly inclosed by the Buzzard-dike or Vallum, which is still, in many places, 8 or 10 feet high. This inclosure, through which the burn of Lornty passes, might be designed by the Caledonians principally as a place of security for their cattle and provisions, as well as for their wives and children. These “*colles*,” or long extended eminencies, rising gradually one above another, were well fitted for displaying the Caledonian army to the best advantage. And, from the splendid account given of it by Tacitus, one is led to conceive a magnificent idea of its appearance: “*Jamque super triginta millia armatorum conspiciebantur, et ad huc affluebat omnis juvenus, et quibus cruda ac viridis senectus, clari bello, ac sua quisque decora gestantes.*” And again, “*Britannorum acies in speciem simul ac terrorem editioribus locis constiterant; ita ut primum agmen æquo ceteri per acclive jugum connexi velut insurgerent.*”—That the auxiliary troops, who fought the battle on the part of the Romans, were at some distance from the legionary station, before they began the attack, appears plainly from this expression of Tacitus: “*Arcessendas plerique legiones admonebant.*” “Most of them gave it as their advice, that the legions ought to be sent for.” Mr Playfair is of opinion, that the two armies might have met, and the line of battle might have been formed, somewhere on the lower grounds of *Bellid* or *Balcairn*. If so, then Agricola’s right wing might extend to the neighbourhood of that hill (above *Marlei*) which still retains the name of *Craig-Roman*; where, as we are credibly informed, several Roman urns and Roman spurs were



The island itself may be ranked among the antiquities of the parish. It is mostly artificial, if not altogether so. It must have been formed with great labour, and in some very distant period too, as there is neither record nor tradition

were dug up, about 40 or 50 years ago, by the proprietor of the ground. The circumstance of Roman *spurs* being found there, gives the more probability to our conjecture; because the wings of the Roman army consisted of the 3000 cavalry who, as Tacitus expresses it, "*cornibus affunderentur*," were widely extended on the wings, in order to prevent the Romans from being attacked in flank.—The grounds here would afford full scope for both armies to extend their lines in the manner described by Tacitus; and it is manifest from his description, that the spaces of ground they then occupied, and over which they must have passed through the different stages of the engagement, were, in all probability, very considerable.—After the Batavian and Tungrian cohorts had begun, "*erigere in colles aciem*," the Caledonians would fall back towards their entrenchments above the *Heer-cairns*. It is possible, therefore, that these cairns (according to Mr Playfair's idea) may be the very spot, where, as Tacitus observes, "*Britanni, qui adhuc pugnae expertes, summa collium insederant, et paucitatem nostrorum vacui spernebant, degressi paullatim et circum in terga vincentium caeperant*," when Agricola, by a masterly manœuvre, turned the stratagem of the Caledonians against themselves, and brought on the general rout. Then commenced that dreadful carnage of which the words of Tacitus are so wonderfully descriptive: "*Passim arma, et corpora, et laceri artus, et cruenta humus*," and of which the *Heer-cairns* may at this day be an affecting memorial.—The Caledonians, in their retreat northwards over *The Guard Drums*, seem to have faced about on the summit of each Drum, and there to have made a resolute and bloody stand against their pursuers. This appears presumable from the number and position of the tumuli on each of these Drums, and it brings to the mind of the spectator that strong expression of Tacitus, in which he pays an indirect compliment to the bravery of the vanquished, "*Aliquando etiam victis ira virtusque*." It likewise appears from the disposition of the tumuli along the neighbouring hills, that the flight of the Caledonians, previous to their general dispersion, was principally by two different routs; the one N. W. towards the woods of Strathardheil, and the other N. E. towards those of Maus, where there is also a number of cairns, seemingly coeval with the others. In some of these Mr Playfair has lately dug up cinders and some little bits of human bones.



tion with respect to its formation. In papers dated 300 years ago, the oldest we have seen on the subject, it is termed the island of the loch of Clunie. The people here affirm, that it was once joined on the S. E. side to the continent; but this is not at all probable, as the land there lies at a very considerable distance, with deep water intervening. Its surface is a circular plain, of about half an acre, raised a few feet above the ordinary level of the loch, and surrounded with a strong barrier of stones, thrown carelessly together, and sloping into deep water all around, like the frustum of a cone. On the N. E. quarter, the wave, which from that point has a pretty long course, has made visible encroachments on the island, and laid bare the roots of some of the old trees, which, by consequence, have of late years suffered very material decay. But Lord Airly is now taking steps to prevent such devastations in future; and pity it were indeed, that such a curiosity should perish merely through neglect. That this island has been formed principally by human art seems demonstrable from this, that the ground of which it is composed is evidently factitious; and in lately digging to the depth of 7 feet, near the centre of the island, nothing like a natural stratum of earth

bones. And here, some have thought it probable, that Aulus Atticus, and some of the 33 Romans who fell with him in the battle, were burnt together in one funeral pile, at the great cairn, which is about 80 or 90 yards in circumference, and in the centre of which we had occasion to see cinders turned up last summer, 1792.

Such, on the whole, are the conjectures we have been led to form on this subject, from our having examined the different scenes with some degree of attention. We offer them to the public, however, only as conjectures. And it is by no means our intention to enter into any controversy on a subject, which, in all likelihood, will ever remain involved in obscurity; and which must be considered as at best rather a matter of curiosity to the antiquary, than of real utility to mankind.



earth appeared. The foundation of the castle wall is several feet below the surface of the water, and in all likelihood rests on piles of oak.

On the western shore of the loch of Clunie stands the old castle-hill, a large green mound, partly natural and partly artificial, on the top of which are the ruins of a very old building. Some aged persons still alive remember to have seen a small aperture, now invisible, at the edge of one of the fragments of the ruins, where, if a stone was thrown in, it was heard for some time, as if rolling down a stair-case. From this it seems probable, that were a section of the hill to be made, some curious discoveries might be the consequence. The castle-hill is of an elliptical form, extending in length from N. to S. about 190 yards at its base, and rising about 50 feet above the level of the loch. A green terrace surrounds the hill; and on the N. side one terrace rises above another. The area of the summit approaches to an elliptical plain, a little inclined towards the east; of this plain, the longitudinal diameter, from N. to S. is about 90 yards, and the transverse about 40. The old castle has stood on the south end of the summit, commanding a distinct view of the neighbourhood, so as not to have been easily taken by surprise. Some vestiges of it still remain; but neither its form nor dimensions can be traced with any degree of precision. The principal fortifications seem to have run along the land side, and the loch and the declivity of the hill appear to have defended it on the east, where it is probable there has been an easy communication with the island by means of boats; so that, in case of the castle being taken, the island might afford a refuge to the besieged. Concerning this piece of antiquity no written record can be found. According to the tradition of the neighbourhood, it was a summer palace or hunting-seat of Kenneth



Macalpin, who conquered the Picts, and united the Scottish and Pictish kingdoms ; and if we suppose this tradition to be well founded, it is not unlikely that it was he who first formed the island in the loch, as a place of retreat in time of danger.

In the flat grounds of the park of Laighwood, on the north side of the burn of Lunan, are the ruins of another old castle, which appears to have been fortified on all sides by ditches filled with water. On the north side was the principal draw bridge, with an avenue of very old trees leading to it, some of the last of which were cut down in the memory of the present generation. A chapel and burying ground are said to have adjoined to the castle, on the south side, where human bones have been found. On the W. and S. W. sides are the remains of later buildings ; but nothing of the original castle is now to be seen, except two vaults, and a small part of an under gallery, with two loop-holes, pointing towards the draw-bridge, which are visible within, but without are blinded by the rubbish. With regard to this ruin, also, record is silent. Probably it was likewise a hunting-seat of some of our old Scottish kings. The tradition concerning it is, that William Sinclair, bishop of Dunkeld, afterward to be taken notice of, was the last person who resided here, and hence it is called Sinclair's castle to this day.

*Eminent Men.*—The people here speak much of the prodigious bodily strength of one William Gordon, who was a son of one of the last Episcopalian ministers of this parish, and who fell at the battle of Sheriffmuir, in the year 1715, fighting on the side of the Earl of Mar. The above mentioned William Sinclair makes a figure in the History of Scotland. He was distinguished by the appellations of the military bishop, and the champion of the kingdom ;



dom; and that he was as much formed for wielding the sword, as for wearing the surplice, appears from the following part of his history: "When he resided at his palace of Aughtertool in Fife, the sheriff of that county went with a body of 500 men, to make head against the English, who had landed in that neighbourhood; but observing that the country was laid waste, and that the enemy kept a good countenance, the sheriff fell back as fast as he could. On hearing this, the bishop armed himself, took horse with about 60 of his people, who were well disciplined, soon meets the sheriff, cries aloud, "What madness is it in you to run away at this rate?" The sheriff replied, "Because the English are more numerous and better soldiers than we are." "If you got your due, says the bishop, the king would cause chop off your golden spurs; but follow me, and with the assistance of St Columbus, whose lands they lay waste, we shall have our revenge." With these words he throws away his bishop's staff, grasps his sword, turns himself to the sheriff, with this expression, "Do follow me." They did follow him, came up with the enemy, and happily obtained a complete victory. There fell that day more than 500 English, besides a number, who, by crowding into their boat, upset it and were all drowned." Sinclair was a great favourite of the king, (David II.), who always in conversation called him "My own bishop;" and the letters he wrote to him were addressed, "To our bishop." Sinclair died 27th June 1337, having filled the see of Dunkeld 25 years. He was buried in the quire of Dunkeld, which he built from the foundation; and in memorial of this work, he caused to be erected on the top of the east gable of the quire, (the present church of Dunkeld), a fluted cross, (part of the armorial bearings of his family), which is still standing there.—Bishop George Brown, of whom we made mention on a former occasion, died



died in the castle on the island of the loch of Clunie, the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1514, in the 2d year of the reign of James V. He was of the family of Midmar. He studied grammar at Dundee, and philosophy at St Andrew's; and was afterward promoted to be chancellor of Aberdeen. Being sent to Rome by the King, on a message relative to the see of Glasgow, he became acquainted with the college of cardinals, and particularly with the vice-chancellor Roderigo Borja, who, by his interest with Pope Sextus IV. got Brown raised to the see of Dunkeld. Being in his old age much afflicted with the gravel, he retired to his castle on the island of Clunie, for which he had a peculiar predilection, and which he built from the foundation, all but the vault of the great tower. He is represented as a man of some learning and public spirit, but of much ambition and rapacity. By influence and dexterity, not altogether justifiable, he found means to enlarge considerably the bounds of his diocese. He could ride by 4 different ways from Dunkeld to Clunie, all on his own ground. It was he who began the stone bridge across the Tay at Dunkeld, 1 arch of which he lived to see completed in summer 1513; but this bridge was never finished. In the see of Dunkeld, he was the immediate predecessor of Galvin Douglas, the elegant translator of Virgil.

*James Crichton*, known by the name of the *admirable Crichton*, who makes such a distinguished figure in the literary annals of Europe, is said to have been born on the island of Clunie. This was confidently asserted by the oldest people of this parish who have died in the memory of the present incumbent; they were educated in this creed, and unwilling to hear of any thing advanced to the contrary. We have, however, seen no records that ascertain the place of his birth. We know for certain, that he was  
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the son of Sir Robert Crichton of Elliock, Lord Advocate of Scotland, who was proprietor of the whole barony of Clunie, and who was succeeded in that property by his oldest son Sir David Crichton, the initials of whose name, together with those of his wife's, who was an ancestor of the present Stewarts of Ballechin, are still to be seen, with a lion rampant, all in relief, on a triangular stone in the east wall of the castle. Without entering into any disquisition with respect to the wonderful abilities of James Crichton, which we believe his eulogists have greatly exaggerated, we beg leave to refer for particulars to the new Edinburgh Encyclopædia, which contains perhaps the most unexceptionable account of him. His successive adventures at Paris, Rome, Venice, Padua, and Mantua, are recorded at large in the 3d vol. of Dr M'Kenzie's Scotch lives; in the 81st No. of the Adventurer; in the 1st vol. of Pennant's first Tour through Scotland; and in the Edinburgh Magazine and Review for June 1774, in which last, there is a small portrait of Crichton, taken from the original paintings of him, which are said to be still extant in many collections on the continent. He was represented on horseback, with a sword in the one hand, and a book in the other, as emblems of his having excelled equally in the manual and literary exercises. At Venice he contracted an intimate friendship with the younger Manutius, a man of great learning, and of an honest and respectable character, who relates many things of him on his own personal knowledge. He was an eye-witness to Crichton's behaviour, both in the presence of the Doge and Senate of Venice, and at the disputation at Padua; and may therefore be regarded as an indubitable testimony to the truth of both. The cause and manner of Crichton's premature and unhappy death, will perhaps still remain in some degree of obscurity; but we have the authority of Manutius for believing that



that the Court of Mantua ordered a general mourning for him ; and this circumstance alone, independent of every other panegyric, throws an indelible lustre on his memory. Among the many epitaphs that lamented his death, it may not be improper, in a repository of this kind, to insert the following one by Johnson in his inscriptions on Scottish heroes :

JACOBUS CRITONIUS CLUNIUS\*

Musarum pariter ac Martis alumnus, omnibus in studiis, ipsis etiam Italæ admirabilis, Mantuæ a ducis Mantuani filio nocturnis insidiis occisus est anno Christi 1581.

Et genus et censum dat Scotia; Gallia pectus  
Excolit: Admirans Itala terra virum  
Ambit, et esse suum vellet: Gens æmula vitam  
Abstulit; an satis hoc dicat ut illa suum?  
Mantua habet cineres, scelus execrata nefandum;  
At tumuli tanto gaudet honori tamen.

*Remarkable*

\* For the sake of those who seem to be of opinion that the wonderful Crichton was not a cadet of the Clunie family of that name, but of the family of Elliock, we here beg leave to quote the following intelligence, collected from the chartulary of the Earl of Airly, and obligingly communicated to us by Mr Thomas Mitchell at Craig, present factor on the Airly estate: "The loch, island, and chapel of St Catharine, within the loch, together with other parts of the barony of Clunie, and teinds of the whole, anciently belonged to the Bishop of Dunkeld, the rest of the barony to the Herons of Glasclune. About the commencement of the Reformation, that part which pertained to Heron was apprised from him by Robert (afterwards Sir Robert) Crichton of Elliock, King's Advocate of Scotland; and at the same time George Crichton, Bishop of Dunkeld, who was a brother of Sir Robert's, disposed to him his whole property in the barony, with this remarkable reservation, that it should be in the Bishop's power, at any time he pleased, to resume it, and incumbent on the disposee to yield it, and all title thereto, and to remove therefrom,  
upon



*Remarkable Seasons and Occurrences.*—In the dry season of 1723, the crop here, though very rich, owing probably to the fertilizing dews that fell in the night time, was so short, that a boll of corn, with all its straw, could easily be contained within the four corners of an ordinary sheet or canvas; there was, however, no scarcity of fodder, the subsequent winter being so exceedingly mild, that the cattle were never housed from the one end of it to the other.—In June 1724, a tremendous water-spout broke upon the higher parts of this parish, and engulfed the declivities, in such a manner, that the marks of it are in many places still visible.—The long and severe frost of 1740 was followed

upon 40 days warning. The reason for this is very obvious: The two brothers had considered that if the alteration in religion should take effect, the church would be plundered of its patrimony; and it would be as well that Sir Robert should get a part of that which belonged to the see of Dunkeld, as another; and, if the old establishment should again prevail, the Bishop would have been restored to his own. Upon the rights I have mentioned, Sir Robert Crichton procured afterwards a charter of confirmation and *novodamus* from King James VI. of the whole barony of Clunie, loch, island, &c. with the advocacy, donation, and right of patronage of the parish and parish-kirk of Clunie, and chapel of St Catharine, within the loch. And the same were enjoyed by him, and his son and successor, &c. There is nothing in this that contradicts the opinion which my Lord Buchan has formed, that the mirabilis Crichton was a son of Sir Robert Crichton of Elliock, as Sir Robert might be at one time designed of Elliock, and at another of Clunie."

From Mylne's manuscript history of the Bishops of Dunkeld, we find that George Crichton filled that see from the year 1522 to 1559. His disposition of the lands of Clunie to his brother, must have happened some time in the intermediate space. On the rights disposed to him by the Bishop, Sir Robert would naturally take possession not only of the property, but probably of the palace of Clunie too, especially as it must have been then in high accommodation, having been lately built and inhabited by Bishop Brown, and esteemed at that time one of the principal houses of this country. The supposition, therefore, that his son, the admirable Crichton, who died a young man, in the year 1581, was born on the island of Clunie, seems to possess the highest degree of probability.



lowed by a very bad crop, owing, in part, perhaps, to the ground being ploughed in the spring before the frost was thoroughly loosened at the bottom of the furrow; a scarcity ensued; and some of the inhabitants of this parish were obliged in the winter to travel as far as Murrayshire for meal, which they brought across the mountains with considerable labour and expense.—The drought of summer 1766 parched the crop here to such a degree, that in the autumn many of the corn-fields, instead of being cut down with the sickle, were pastured by the horses and cows; but the mildness of the ensuing winter prevented any hard consequences.—In August 1769, another water-spout, accompanied with dreadful thunder and lightning, fell here of an afternoon, from the S. E.; and in a few minutes swelled the torrents to an amazing height, swept off several of the bridges, and did considerable damage to the standing corns.—In 1782 no great hardship was suffered here, as some of the most substantial farmers had meal in reserve, which, when a mob was threatened, they sold off at the rate of 20 s. the boll.—The great meteor of the 18th August 1783, exhibited no phenomena here different from those observed in other parts of this country, and described in the transactions of that year. Its passage from N. W. to S. E. was marked here about 18 minutes after 9 o'clock P. M.—On the 22d of July 1786, about noon-day, a hurricane, resembling a tornado, preceded by a deceitful calm, burst suddenly, with a noise like thunder, from the west; and, being collected into a current by the high grounds on each side of the Lunan, raged here with prodigious violence, till about a quarter after 12 o'clock noon; during which time it unroofed several houses, and dismantled or overturned some of the oldest and stoutest trees in the district. A stately beech, that stood on the lawn before the door of the house of Forneth, and was esteemed the first inanimate



inanimate beauty of the place, was rooted up; 4 old planes fell on the adjoining bank, and, at the same time, on the island of Clunie, 5 venerable trees, that had withstood the blasts of centuries, and sheltered the island on the N. W. were laid flat on the ground. The waters of the loch underwent an unusual agitation, and the spray was whirled in showers over the neighbouring grounds to a considerable distance. This hurricane, by far the most dreadful we ever had occasion to witness, was termed by the people here an *earth wind*, and supposed to have been accompanied with some degree of earthquake.—About the end of February 1788, there was here a very deep fall of snow, suddenly followed by a smart thaw and heavy rain, which occasioned such an inundation of the loch of Clunie, as has not been seen during the present century. The whole island was immersed for upwards of two hours, and its trees and castle seemed to float on the surface of the water. The meadow of Clunie lay under water 4 feet deep, and two men sailed across it, in a straight line, all the way from the castle-hill, to the wall of the new garden of Forneth, without meeting with the smallest obstruction.—On the 19th of November 1791, at half past 7 o'clock P. M. a fire-ball of uncommon magnitude, apparently as large, or very nearly as large as the disk of the moon, was observed here in its passage from S. S. W. to N. N. E. Its elevation seemed considerable, and its motion rapid. For a few seconds, it illuminated the country all around very distinctly. It emitted sparks, and left a train behind it; and, a little to the northward of our zenith, it divided into two lesser balls, which also emitted sparks, and moved with equal velocity, their distance increasing as they proceeded in their course to N. N. E. Before they reached the verge of our horizon, they both disappeared at the same instant, a little below the great star in the constellation of Auriga; and about a minute after



their disappearance, we heard from that quarter of the heavens a loud explosion, similar to that from the discharge of a piece of ordnance. The meteor was observed, and the explosion was heard at Dunkeld-house, and the time there corresponded with the observation here. A few days afterward, a severe frost set in here, with some snow, and continued, with a few momentary intervals of thaw, till the end of January 1792, during all which time the surface of the ground was one sheet of ice: The people were obliged to carry in water to their cattle; and neither man nor horse could venture abroad without having their feet secured with iron. A remarkable rainy season followed; the most luxuriant part of the crop was lodged in the beginning of August, and never ripened; harvest was not got home till near the middle of November, and even then in very poor condition; such of the crop as has been already threshed out is by no means productive: The barley is found very unfit for malting, and in many places, it requires two bolls of oats to yield one boll of meal. The meal is in general very indifferent in its quality. The people are naturally apprehensive of bad consequences. But their greatest suffering at present arises from their want of fuel. The peats that were cast last summer, could neither be got dried, nor carried home, on account of the incessant rains. A boll of coals, *i. e.* 42 stone weight, costs just now (Christmas 1792), 8s. Sterling at the shore of Perth, and on account of the extreme badness of the roads, it costs 4s. more for the carriage of it to Dunkeld.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The farmers, in general, enjoy the great advantage of a perennial fountain of good water in their immediate neighbourhood. We observed, that in the higher parts of the parish there is plenty of good peat, and, in the lower parts, broom, furze and brush-wood,



wood, all serving as the common fuel of the inhabitants. Good stones every where abound, for building fences and houses. Marl of an excellent quality lies at no great distance, and the ground is well calculated for marl; besides, it has almost every where a slope, favourable for draining; and though in many places it is difficult to be cleared, yet in ordinary seasons, and under due management, it never fails to repay the labour and expence bestowed upon it. The farmers begin to be sensible of these advantages, and to make a proper use of them. But, on the other hand, they labour under several inconveniencies, which, it is hoped, will in a short time be removed. Servants wages are exorbitant. The want of day-labourers is a great hindrance to agricultural improvement. The tenants cannot be reconciled to the idea of meliorating their climate and soil, by raising belts of feathered wood on the N. E. and W. sides of inclosures. The burn of Lunan is suffered to inundate and render half useless many valuable acres of ground in the park of Laighwood, and barony of Clunie, a devastation that might be prevented in both places by straightening and banking the burn, which, it is thought, could be done in a substantial manner, at an expence not exceeding L. 200 Sterling. The materials for building good houses abound in the parish; many of the people live in miserable smoky cribs, more like sties for hogs than habitations for men. Several of the farmers have too short leases, and some of them no leases at all; and consequently, are discouraged from carrying on improvements to any extent. The old oppressive customs of bonnage, thirlage, and servitudes, (disgraceful to the country, and to humanity), are not yet quite abolished. The public roads, though lately somewhat improved, are still, during one half of the year at least, extremely indifferent; though there is some reason to expect, that the commutation of  
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the statute-labour, which begins to take place, and the committing the reparation of these roads to active hands, will be productive of good effects. The peat mosses are distant, and high in the hills; and the roads that lead to them, are fit only for killing the horses, and dashing the carts in pieces. The tenants here, as in many other parts, are obliged to spend too much of their time in providing the necessary fuel for the winter. There is no coal nearer us than the shore of Perth; the river Tay, broad and deep, runs between; and there is not a bridge across it, in its whole course, from Aberfeldy to Perth, *i. e.* in a course of upwards of 40 miles. There is, however, a certain prospect of much benefit accruing to this part of the country, from the new road marked out from Perth to the river Ila, and from the bridge that is about to be built across that river at Meiklour, which will greatly facilitate the carriage of coal and lime, and other necessary articles from Perth.

NUM.



NUMBER XVIII.

PARISH OF CRANSTON,

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF DALKEITH.)

*By the Rev. Mr WALTER FISHER.*

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*Extent, Climate, Surface, &c.*

ITS extent is about 5 miles in length, and 3 in breadth. The climate, though subject to the variable weather of the island, is mild and healthful. If any distemper, more frequent than another, attack the inhabitants, it is the ague, a complaint which chiefly prevails in the spring, when the easterly wind often becomes a trade wind, is loaded with cold vapour, and felt in all its severity on the eastern parts of the island. The face of the parish is unequal, but the fine seats, the gentle swellings of the ground, the intermixture of inclosures and plantations, render it extremely beautiful. The prospects from the higher grounds are at once rich and extensive. The river Tyne runs through the parish from S. to N. and though here but a rivulet, yet it widens in its progress, before it falls into the  
the



the Forth at Tynningham. Its banks are decorated with handsome and noble seats. In this parish, the magnificent structures of Oxenford castle and Preston hall, planted on opposite banks of the river, the picturesque but natural formation of grounds, the fields chequered with trees, and crowned with corns; all these arrest the eye of the traveller, and present to his view a landscape equal to some of the most cultivated spots in England.

*Manufactures, &c.*—The staple commodity of the parish is corn. Oats are carried to Dalkeith, where there is a weekly market, the best in Scotland for that species of grain, and sold to meal makers at a ready money price. Pease and beans are carried to the same market. Wheat is sold to bakers or starch makers; and barley to brewers, distillers, or barley makers. Quarries of freestone, limestone, and pitcoal, are wrought in several places, and make a good return to the proprietors. The price of a boll of shells is 10 d. and 1 s.; and of a load of coals, equal to 2 cwt. 5 d. Near to Coussland are a brick work and a pottery. At Upper Cranston, works have been lately erected for extracting tar from pitcoal; an ingenious process, which reflects much honour on the Earl of Dundonald, who made the discovery, and enjoys by patent an exclusive privilege for the manufacture. The coals are put into ovens, and after being kindled, are slowly decomposed; while the volatile parts fly off into separate reservoirs, where they are condensed. Each condenser has two ovens appropriated to it, and between the ovens and condensers is placed a long leaden cistern filled with water, in order to hasten the process. The condensed fluid is then conveyed from the condensers, by a cock into wooden pipes, which lead it into a pit; from whence it is pumped into the still. By the act of distillation, or boiling, the steam flies off into another large



large wooden vessel, where it is condensed into an *oil and volatile spirit*. The distillation continues for the space of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  days, when the residuum in the still makes excellent *tar*. The oil and spirit are then drawn off into a smaller vessel, and as the oil swims on the top, a separation is easily made, by drawing off the spirit. If the tar is boiled in the still for  $5\frac{1}{2}$  days, the stuff remaining in the still is then called *half pitch*; and should the process be continued a day longer, it would become as brittle as glass. The volatile spirit is distilled a second time before it is exposed to sale, and afterwards made into *hartshorn* by the chymist. A *bright varnish* is produced, by mixing one gallon of the foresaid oil with six lb. rosin, and then boiling them together; and a *black varnish*, by mixing and boiling together 4 lb. rosin, 1 gallon of the above oil, and 1 Scotch pint of the half pitch. The British tar is of a blacker colour, and has a finer skin than common tar. It contains no water like the latter, and its quality is injured by any mixture of lamp black, red and white lead, oil or tallow. Vegetable tar, containing an acid that corrodes iron, does not answer as a preservative from rust; but this tar, possessing no such corrosive quality, is found to be an effectual covering for guns, shot, bolts, and all iron work. Its principal recommendation however is, that it is excellently adapted for paying the bottoms of ships, and preserving wooden work, that is exposed to the weather, or liable to be worm-eaten. If the half pitch cannot be readily procured, when required, the tar may be brought to that consistence, by boiling it a sufficient time; to be ascertained by dipping into it a chip of wood, which on cooling, will show when the tar has acquired the proper degree. The tar and pitch must always be heated before they are applied. On wooden work, first lay on the tar quite hot, and then a coat of warm pitch. Piles that are to be driven

ven



ven into the ground, should be well heated, before they are dipped into the half pitch. Nails are lackered, by heating them in a wire basket over a stove, and hastily dipping them, while hot, into the tar. As they cool, the tar dries on them, and when thus prepared, they are not apt to rust, or render the wood what is called iron-sick. Worms do not penetrate into wood that has been properly impregnated with the tar; if the bottom of a vessel therefore be of fir, all that is necessary is to fire her well, and while the plank is hot, to lay on a coat of the tar heated in a pot. When the seams are chaulked, finish the whole with a coat of half pitch prepared in the same manner. But as oak, from its close texture, will not imbibe a sufficient quantity of tar, to preserve it against the worm for any length of time, it is necessary to sheath oak bottomed vessels with white fir wood, impregnated with the tar, to lacker the sheathing nails, and lay over all a coat of half pitch to finish it off. British varnish is preferable to turpentine varnish, because the oil of which it is made, is of a more penetrating nature than that of turpentine. The effect it has, when laid on wood, is to close its pores, by filling them with the rosin it contains, and thus to render white, or sap wood, equal in quality to red. The bright or clear varnish is used in the same manner as turpentine varnish, and answers as a substitute for lintseed oil, in painting all colours, except with red and white lead when dry; but if these be ground with oil, it is then equal to turpentine varnish, and comes much cheaper. The black varnish is designed for all parts of a vessel exposed to the weather, where paint or pitch is not used. It dries fast, and gives a fine gloss to the wood. The tar, before it is boiled, is sold for greasing carts at 6 d. a Scotch pint. A barrel of boiled tar containing 32 gallons English measure, is sold at the works for L. 1, 3 s. Sterling. And a yard



yard of board laid over with it costs about a halfpenny. A barrel of half pitch, containing 32 gallons English measure, is sold at L. 1, 5 s. The oil at 2 s. 6 d. the gallon; the bright and black varnish at the same price; and the volatile spirit, after a second distillation, at 8 s. 6 d. the cwt. The residuum of the coals in the ovens proves to be good cinders, which are sold to founders and brewers at 9 d. the boll.

*Antiquities, &c.*—Coulland was burnt by Somerset, when he invaded Scotland with a powerful army, to enforce the marriage of the beautiful Mary with the young King of England. Though the Union of the two kingdoms was an important and desirable object, yet this was certainly a rough mode of making love to a Queen.—On the south side of this village, are to be seen the ruins of some buildings, with two inclosures surrounded by high walls. No authentic account of them, after much research, can be found; but if we may credit tradition, they are the remains of a nunnery. The highest wall, commonly called the White Dike, at present measures 24 feet, and the rest vary in height from 5 to 11. The inclosures were undoubtedly orchards, since cherry trees and gooseberry bushes were still growing a few years ago. That there was a church yard here, and a bell to be seen hanging in the end of the chapel, till it was carried off by some tinkers, are facts supported by the testimony of persons still alive. Hence it is probable, that it was a religious foundation, and perhaps dedicated to St Bartholomew, since there are some acres of ground to the southward, which retain the name of Bartholomew's Firlot. The old manse which stood near to Prestonhall, is said to have been a resting place for the religious in their way to Melrose. No date could be discovered on the building, but over one of



the windows was the following inscription in the Monkish style, 'Diverforium infra, Habitaculum supra.' At Upper Cranston stands a venerable green holly, perhaps the largest in the island, with too evident marks of old age and decay. It measures  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in circumference, or 2 feet 4.64 inches in diameter, and where it divides into branches, the trunk is no more than 7 feet high. At Caickmoor, there is a thriving beech 16 feet round, or 5 feet 1.11 inches in diameter, and at Prestonhall, another 15 feet round, or 4 feet 9.29 inches in diameter. These trees, from their near situation to the mansion houses, seem to have been planted at first in the garden ground, to which circumstance we must in some measure ascribe the great size they now exhibit.

*Husbandry, &c.*—It was in this parish that the first example of the drill husbandry was given. Sir John Dalrymple of Coulland, grandfather to the present Baronet, was the first person who introduced into Scotland the sowing of turnip, and the planting of cabbages in the open field. He also greatly improved the breed of horses and black cattle, and was among the first who sowed clover and rye grass. Mr Cockburn of Ormiston, and he, both of them distinguished by zeal for their country, and a passion for agriculture, established at Ormiston a society, which had for its object the improvement of husbandry. Besides actual farmers, persons of the first rank in the country, were proud of being inrolled as members of that club. The Duke of Perth, and John Earl of Stair, regularly attended its monthly meetings. The soil of this parish consists partly of clay or stiff lands, and partly of those that are light. The whole is arable, in general fertile, and well adapted for producing all kinds of grain. The state of agriculture is much the same as in other parishes of Mid-



Lothian. Two-horse ploughs are universally employed, and the plough held in highest estimation is that made by J. Small at Rosebank, which is deservedly considered as the greatest improvement agriculture has received for many years. Mr Small published some time ago an account of his plough in a particular treatise, and since that publication, he has made a farther improvement, by substituting, in place of the wooden head, one of cast metal. Last year, (1791,) the first experiment was made with a plough so mounted in this parish, and before proper judges. Though the field pitched on was very rough, and six horses were yoked and driven on at a great rate, yet the cast metal head was not in the least damaged. Since that time practice proves, that no force ever necessary to be applied to the plough can injure it. The value of this improved plough appears from its being universally adopted, and the great commissions the inventor receives. The advantage of alternate green and white crops is sufficiently understood; but though the turnip husbandry was first practised here, and the nature of the soil in many parts is very favourable to that system, yet turnips are scarcely cultivated at present. The turnip husbandry requires so accurate a skill in the buying and selling of cattle, that every person is not qualified for conducting it. It is a curious fact, that, when turnips were first cultivated in the parish, during those early experiments, no manure, it was imagined, would answer for raising them, but the best which Edinburgh produced. The principal productions are wheat, barley, oats, pease, beans, hay; and the best rotation that is observed is fallow, wheat, pease, barley, grass and oats. Some of the farmers drive manure, from the distance of 4 or 5 miles, and up hill, to improve their stiff lands, every cubic yard of which, when laid on the land, costs them about 5 s. The farms are laid out from 100 to 500 acres. The rent  
of



of land runs from 5 s. to 30 s. an acre, and a few fields of good quality are let so high as L. 2 the acre. A mildew infects the banks of the Tyne from Cranston to Pencaitland, and sometimes does material damage to wheat and oats. The lands about Ormiston generally suffer more than any other part of the tract where it prevails. The rent of the parish is about L. 2800 Sterling, and the valued rent is L. 6208 : 1 : 4 Scots. The rent of the smallest farm is L. 35, and of the greatest L. 300 \*.

*Population, &c.*—The population, according to Dr Webster's report, was 725. From an exact survey made in the 1792, the number of souls amounted to 839; males, 376, females, 463. After extracting 3 different periods from the parish register, the number of births stood as follows: from 1715 to 1726, the males were 112, and the females 144, total 256; from 1739 to 1750, the males were 106, and the females 111, total 217; and from 1779 to 1790, the males were 90, and the females 95, total 185. The average of male births, therefore, for the space of 30 years, is somewhat more than 10, of female more than 11, and of both, nearly 22 yearly. From this extract, however, it would not be a just conclusion to infer, that the number of births, and consequently the population, has been on the decrease; because every year, on account of the secession, the neglect or poverty of parents, several births are omitted to be inserted in the parish register. The average of marriages, for the space of 10 years, amounted to 8, but the register where they are inserted has not been kept with any exactness. There are 3 villages in

\* The wages of a ploughman during the half year, are from L. 2, 15 s. to L. 3, 6 s. and of a hind from L. 5 to L. 5, 10 s. during the year, with grafs for a cow, and 2 pecks of meal in the week. The hire of a day-labourer is 10 d. and 1 s. in winter, and 1 s. 2 d. in summer.



in the parish, Cranston, Coulland, and Preston; the population of Cranston is 81 males, 106 females, total 187; of Coulland, 68 males, 94 females, total 162; and of Preston, 29 males, 46 females, total 75.

|                                 |    |                          |   |
|---------------------------------|----|--------------------------|---|
| Seceders, - - -                 | 26 | Weavers, - - -           | 4 |
| Episcopalians, - -              | 4  | Shoemakers, - -          | 2 |
| Heritors residing, -            | 2  | Tailors, - - -           | 3 |
| Farmers, - - -                  | 14 | Millers, - - -           | 2 |
| Surgeon, - - -                  | 1  | Baker, - - -             | 1 |
| Retailers of small groceries, 7 |    | Gardeners, - -           | 4 |
| Innkeepers, - - -               | 2  | Sheriff officer, -       | 1 |
| Smiths, - - -                   | 3  | Justice Peace officer, - | 1 |
| Masons, - - -                   | 3  | Schoolmasters, -         | 2 |
| Carpenters, - - -               | 4  | Clergyman, - -           | 1 |

The rent of a house is from 12 s. to 20 s. There is no characteristical difference between the inhabitants of this and the other parishes of Mid-Lothian. If there be any ground for animadversion, the abuse of spiritous liquors among the lower ranks affords it. Where such a habit prevails, the health suffers, business is neglected, and poverty follows of course. These pernicious effects were not so common, when ale and beer were more generally drunk. It would certainly then be an essential service to the community, to impose such a duty on spiritous liquors, or to transfer it from ale and beer to them, as would diminish the number of low tippling houses, and bring back the people to the safer use of malt liquor.

*Stipend and Poor.*—The stipend is L. 57 : 6 : 11<sup>4</sup>/<sub>12</sub> in money, 16 bolls 2 pecks 1 lippy of barley, 32 bolls 1 peck 1 lippy of oats, and 2 bolls 3 pecks of wheat. The living is in the gift of Lady Dalrymple Hamilton Macgill, representative



representative of the Viscounts of Oxenford. The mansion house and lands of East Caickmoor, though disjoined by the parish of Crichton, yet belong to this parish, and pay stipend to the minister.—The poor are supported from the weekly collections, and the interest of money left by charitable persons for their behoof; a fund which has hitherto answered every demand, and consequently there has been no assessment. The number of poor is from 14 to 19, and their capital at interest is L. 357 Sterling. In this parish, there is a Friendly Society, lately instituted for the support of its distressed members and indigent widows. The regulations, dictated by experience, or copied from similar societies of a long standing, seem well calculated to answer the ends of the institution. Such associations merit the countenance of the landed interest, because they tend to lessen the number of the poor, and retard a general assessment.

NUM.



NUMBER XIX.

PARISH OF KILCONQUHAR,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST  
ANDREW'S.)

By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER SMALL.

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**KILCONQUHAR** is derived probably either from *Cella*, the cell or chapel of a saint or monk, called *Conachar*; or from the Gaelic *Kil*, a place of worship or interment, and *Conachar*. From S. to N. that is, from the sea to the borders of the parish of Ceres, it is about 8 English miles in length; and, in general, about 2 in breadth. It is situated in that part of the county of Fife, which, on account of the narrowness of the land, jutting out into the German Sea, and washed by the friths of the Forth and the Tay, is called the East Nook of Fife. Its surface is somewhat irregular, being flat in the south for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the sea; rising gently towards the north for about 2 miles; then, after a small declivity, ascending again towards the north for more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile, on the north of which the ground is



is partly flat, but, for the most part, declining towards the north. The soil in the southern part is light and sandy, but by proper culture, bears rich crops; in the higher ground of the very beautiful and fertile bank that faces the sea, it is deep black loam; in some places, very rich clay. In the northern parts, though it is in some places abundantly rich, the climate is less favourable; the soil too, in many places, being a clay bottom mixed with sand, is of inferior quality, and less productive; it is now arable in general; not long since, a great part of it was taken from moors; in dry seasons, however, it yields good crops; much wheat and barley of excellent quality is raised in the southern parts; pease and beans also, and every kind of grain that is usual in this country, succeed well here.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Though the farmers are not attached to any particular mode of farming, the following is a rotation of crops frequently observed here, wheat, turnip, or any green crop, barley, and clover\*. There are few oats raised in the lower part of the parish, but they are much used in the higher grounds. Sometimes we stand in need of importation of oats and oat-meal; while we export considerable quantities of wheat, barley, pease and beans, and some potatoes. The late Earl of Balcarras, about 40 years ago, introduced field turnip into his plan of farming, and fed oxen with them to a great extent; the use of that valuable root was not perhaps sooner known in this part of the country; his Lordship's example was but little followed,

\* Wheat is sown in September, October, November, some even in January and February; which last is sometimes found to answer well: It is reaped commonly in August and September. Pease and beans are sown in February, March, and beginning of April; barley generally in May: And reaped in August, September, or sometimes beginning of October.



ed, if at all, till within these 25 years; the practice is now become very general, to the great benefit of the country. —When the turnip appears above ground, it is often much hurt from a cause that seems not to be well understood, some imputing it to a fly that eats the tender leaves; an ingenious gentleman in this neighbourhood, who has bestowed much attention on this subject, imputes it to frost, and is confident the turnip suffers nothing from the fly. The *Ruta бага* or Swedish turnip, was introduced into this parish about 4 years ago. Its leaves resemble the rib kail plants, the root resembles field turnip, not so large in general, but heavier in proportion to its size, and of much firmer texture. It is believed, that as great weight of this root may be raised on an acre, as of field turnip; this plant seems to be gaining ground here; it is proof against the most intense frost; the season for sowing it is from the 1st to the 20th May; it may either be transplanted as cabbage, or managed as field turnip. Potatoes were scarcely known in this country 40 years ago; they now afford the poor half their sustenance, and generally appear at the tables of the rich; they are well known to be very proper food for horses and other animals, and are sometimes distilled into whisky. Pease and beans are much used, and generally sown in drills; they are hoed with the plough, and afterwards with hand hoes, which renders them meliorating crops. The number of horses in the parish is about 239; of cattle, 624; of asses, 22; of wheel-carriages, 3. The plough generally used is that of Small's construction, with a broad sock and mold board of Carron metal. Twenty or 30 years ago, the almost universal practice of the farmers of this parish was, to yoke 2 horses and 4 oxen in a plough; now, ploughs are generally drawn by 2 horses, one ploughman managing them; scarcely are any oxen seen in a plough.—There are between 70 and 80 ploughs, and about the same number of

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carts; about 40 years ago, few carts were used in this country; coals, victual and other articles, were at that period, and perhaps later, carried on horseback; corn, hay, manure, &c. were driven with wains, drawn by 2 horses and 2 oxen. The parish contains  $63\frac{1}{2}$  ploughgates, consisting of between 40 and 50 acres each, so that the whole parish may be computed at upwards of 3000 acres arable, besides 280 acres of links or sandy plains, the haunts of rabbits, a species of animals, which, though destructive to corn, bring no small profit to the proprietors; they are extremely prolific, being said to have young 5 or 6 times in the year, 3 or 4 of the first litter, 5, 6, or 7, of the following ones. Property in land has changed much in this parish of late years. The value of land is rapidly increasing; farms let for 19 or more years, are generally raised one third, and the rents of some are doubled within these few years; a farm of good land uninclosed, fit for the highest culture, is let from 40s. to 50s. a-acre; the best pasture, inclosures, &c. from L. 2 to L. 3 the acre. Thirty or 40 years ago, there was scarce a large farm in this country that had not a flock of sheep; now there are very few sheep in the country, excepting those in gentlemens inclosures, for family use; since summer fallow, for the culture of wheat, and the clover and turnip system for feeding cattle, were introduced, the farmers discontinued keeping flocks of sheep\*. The valued rent of the parish is L. 9509 Scots.—The real rent is increased

\* Servants wages are gradually increasing in this parish. The wages of a common labourer 6 or 7 years ago, were from 7 d. to 10 d. a-day; now they are from 10 d. to 15 d. The wages of men-servants hired for the year at the above period, were from L. 4 to L. 5; now they are from L. 6 to L. 8, and their victuals. The wages of maid-servants at the same period, were from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2 Sterling, for the year; now they are in general from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3. The wages of wrights or carpenters a-day, are 1 s. 6 d. in summer, and 1 s. 3 d. in winter. Of masons the same.



increased in proportion to that of other parishes in the neighbourhood. The air is wholesome in general, though damp in some places; the people live to a good age; there are many who live beyond 80, and some beyond 90 years. There is a poor woman in this parish, who avers, that she is more than 100 years old. This, however, is not authenticated by our records.

*Population.*—At the time of Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was 2131; the number of the inhabitants at present is about 2013\*. There are 4 villages or small towns. Colinsburgh contains about 357 inhabitants; Earlsferry, about 350; Kilconquhar, about 258; Barnyards, about 198; the country part of the parish, about 850. There are 2 clergymen, one of the Established Church, the other of the Relief Congregation. There are between 600 and 700 sectaries, adhering chiefly to the Presbytery of Relief, with some Burgher-seceders and Independents; few of the Episcopal profession, and no Roman Catholics. There are 13 proprietors of land, 5 residing, and 8 non-resident; 1 writer, 11 merchants, 20 farmers above L. 50 rent, 10 innkeepers and brewers, 8 smiths, 89 weavers, 23 tailors, 18 masons, 21 sailors, 3 butchers, 12 gardeners, 46 shoemakers, 8 bakers including apprentices, 4 flax-dressers, 2 coopers, 5 millers, 2 tanners, with 1 clerk, and a currier, 6 saddlers, who are employed occasionally in shoemaking. The apprentices and journeymen are included in the numbers of the respective trades.

*Stipend,*

| * Years. | Baptisms. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|----------|-----------|------------|---------|
| 1788     | 52        | 20         | 30      |
| 1789     | 52        | 20         | 35      |
| 1790     | 59        | 20         | 26      |
| 1791     | 46        | 16         | 64      |



*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend is 10 chalders 3 fir-lots 3 pecks and 2 lippies barley, and L. 17 : 13 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  Sterling, with a glebe said to be more than 7 acres.—There is one established schoolmaster with 200 merks of salary, a good school-house, dwelling-house, garden, and a small croft of land. The scholars are commonly between 30 and 40 in number; 4 of whom are at present learning Latin. Two and sometimes 3 teachers are employed by the inhabitants of distant parts of this extensive parish.—The number of poor at present is 26.—They receive a monthly allowance, and sometimes oftener, from our public funds, according to their respective necessities. For these purposes and accidental cases that occur, our weekly collections, and the liberal aid of the heritors, with the interest of our stock, are generally sufficient, without affecting the principal. There are but 3 travelling poor in the parish.

|                        |   |       |    |                 |
|------------------------|---|-------|----|-----------------|
| Annual income in 1790, | - | L. 45 | 2  | 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| ————— 1791,            | - | 34    | 2  | 4               |
| ————— 1792,            | - | 58    | 17 | 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ |

|                             |   |       |    |                  |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|----|------------------|
| Annual expenditure in 1790, | - | L. 31 | 13 | 7                |
| ————— 1791,                 | - | 32    | 8  | 0 $\frac{1}{2}$  |
| ————— 1792,                 | - | 51    | 13 | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ |

The small income in 1791 was owing to the vacancy in that year.

*Royal Borough.*—There is one Royal borough, Earl's Ferry\*. From a copy of a charter in the possession of the magistrates, renewed in the year 1589 by King James, it

\* There is a tradition, that on account of the generous and obliging attentions of the inhabitants of this town to the Earl of Fife, when he lay concealed in a cave in their neighbourhood, and particularly for ferrying



it appears, its erection into a royal borough, is of very ancient date. The original charter is lost, having been destroyed by a fire of the borough of Edinburgh, as specified in the copy above mentioned. In this borough there are 3 magistrates, 15 councillors and a treasurer, the oldest magistrate acting as provost. The election is annual and by poll. They forfeited their right of voting in the election of members of Parliament, in common with some other towns in this country, through their inability to pay their proportion of the sums necessary for defraying the expenses of a commissioner in Parliament some centuries ago; when 'the anxiety of

rying him over the frith, at the hazard of their lives and liberties, while he was escaping from the cruelty of Macbeth, the Earl obtained from King Malcolm the following privilege in their favour, *viz.* That the persons of all who pass the frith from Earl's Ferry in a vessel belonging to the town, were declared inviolable, or safe from their pursuers, till they were half sea over. This, it would appear, is the origin of the name of Earl's Ferry. There is one sloop, and a few small fishing-boats, belonging to Earl's Ferry. Formerly there were 18 fishermen; but since the year 1766, when 7 of them were lost in a storm in one boat, only a very few are employed in fishing occasionally.—There is in our records a copy of the inscription on Macduff's cross, written in a language unknown in this part of the country, as follows:

Maldraradrum dragos, maleria largia largos,  
Spalando spados, five nig fig gnippite gnaros,  
Lauria lauriscos lauringen, lauria lufcos,  
Et Columburtos, et sic tibi curcia curtos  
Exitus et baradrum, five lim, five lam, five labrum;  
Propter magidrum et hoc oblatum,  
Ampi smileridum, super limpide, lampide, labrum.

Part of the above inscription has been translated as follows:

'I King Malcolm Kenmore, grant to thee Macduff Earl of Fife, free liberty to punish all traytors that desert, and troublers of the peace, and free indemnity to thy own kin; thou paying to the King nine cows and a heifer.'



of our ancestors to obtain an exemption, was almost equal to the eagerness with which our contemporaries solicit admission into Parliament \*.

*Rocks, Caves and Lakes*—On the west of the Earl's Ferry is Kincraig-rock, remarkable for caves, which, though some of them resemble the works of art, are probably excavations caused by the influx of the sea. In one of them, Macduff's cave, are some remains of a wall, which tradition says, was built by Macduff, Earl of Fife, to defend him from Macbeth, who, having murdered his cousin King Duncan, ascended the throne of Scotland, and treated his subjects with the cruelty of a tyrant. Macduff afterward fled into England, and encouraged Malcolm, son to the late king, to return to Scotland and recover the throne of his ancestors.—Macduff's cave penetrates into the rock about 200 feet, and the roof, being the summit of the rock, is supposed to be at least 160 feet high, forming a grand alcove, projecting over the cave and the sea at full tide.—The stone of this rock is of excellent quality, susceptible of fine polish, resembling granite, or perhaps a species of it. Mr Gourlay, the late proprietor, had high offers made him, for liberty to quarry in it some years ago, when the streets of London were paving; but apprehensive of the fall of some parts of the rock, and the loss of some of the rich soil behind, which he suspected might be the consequence, he declined the offers. Coal is found in this rock too, which cannot be worked, as the sea comes so close upon it. There is a species of stone in this rock, which is supposed to be marble of the basaltic kind; a specimen of which is to be seen in Mrs Gourlay of Kincraig's custody; its colour is white, variegated with blue, and it is finely polished. There is a beautiful piece of water on the south of the village of  
Kilconquhar,

\* Dr ROBERTSON's History of Scotland.



Kilconquhar, commonly called Kilconquhar Loch, almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile in length, and about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile in breadth. This loch was originally called Redmire, from which much fuel was got, as peat and turf. It had a drain westward to the sea. There is a tradition here, that in the year 1624 or 1625, the drain was filled up with sand driven by a violent gust of wind from the sea, and that the water, thus stopped in its course, became a lake. Between 60 and 70 swans used greatly to enliven and adorn this loch; but they deserted it about 20 years ago. There are 9 at present. In the loch are several small islands planted with shrubs, formed for the use of the swans: they hatch in the month of May\*.

*Country Seats.*—There is a variety of beautiful country seats in this parish, among which Balcarras is conspicuous, situated on an eminence, with a gentle declivity to the south.

\* A species of birds called bald coots, are also on the loch in great numbers, resembling crows, but have longer legs; they make their nests on the flags, and hatch in May; and feed upon vermin in the mud. They left the loch, it is reported, about 40 years ago, and did not return again for ten years. Here are wild ducks; herald ducks, as they are called here, (perhaps heron ducks), smaller than wild ducks, with a shorter wing, red head, and gray variegated feathers; a species of duck called widgeon, somewhat less than the herald duck; and teals, smaller than these ducks. These ducks appear on the loch in great abundance in summer, but leave it in winter. In the evening, they fly off in a body to the sea, as is supposed, and return through the night. The only fishes in the loch are pikes and eels; of the former some weigh 14 lb. some 16 lb. and are, some 36, some 38 inches long. There is a drain in the loch to the south, where the eels are taken in an ark; they go to the sea in autumn. Perches have been seen in the loch, but they are destroyed, it is thought, by the pikes.—The gray plover and fieldfare come hither in October, and leave us the beginning of March; the green plover, as it were by concert, comes to us in March, and leaves us in October. The lark, blackbird, thrush, with birds of almost every note and every feather, haunt a pleasant wood of Sir John Anstruther's on the south of Kilconquhar loch, where there are charming walks, adorned with flowers and shrubs, and lovely bowers.



south, commanding a noble view of the coast, and of the frith of Forth; a pleasant and grand object, beautifully winding round the coast, almost in a semicircular direction, often agreeably diversified with ships of various burdens, and sometimes with fleets; North Berwick law, the Bass, and the island of May, are also pleasing and grand objects from this charming villa, appearing as so many floating islands and castles in the sea. Balcarras commands an extensive prospect on the south of the frith likewise, comprehending Edinburgh, with a great part of the counties of Lothian, Haddington, Berwick, &c. There is a beautiful craig on the East of Balcarras-House, rising in the midst of rich fields, from which the objects above mentioned are seen to great advantage. Here also is an excellent quarry for building. On the east of the craig is a delightful den, about an English mile in length, enlivened by a stream of water passing through the middle, whose rising banks are adorned with thriving trees of various kinds. The feathered tribes seem proud of pouring forth their various melody in this pleasant retreat, not inferior perhaps to the Tempe of ancient Theffaly. Balcarras is no less fertile than beautiful, the fields are properly divided and inclosed, and in the highest state of cultivation. The late Earl of Balcarras, a nobleman distinguished by the benevolence of his heart, the liberality of his sentiments, and the uncommon extent of his knowledge, particularly in history and agriculture, was among the first that brought farming to any degree of perfection in this country.

Hic, ——— Ridet inter omnes  
Angulus terræ.

It would exceed the bounds proper for an account of this kind to dwell on the beautiful situation, and elegant mansion-houses of Kilconquhar, Newton, Lathallan, Kin-  
craig,



craig and Grange; the castle of Rires merits particular notice, situated on a high eminence, commanding a most extensive view, and intended, it would appear, for a place of defence; it is surrounded by a ditch 70 feet wide, whose depth cannot now be ascertained with accuracy, by reason of the alterations time has made on the ground: No planting remains about it, excepting one remarkable tree, called 'the Bicker tree,' measuring 14 feet round, and its branches extending about 75 feet; that part of the tree where the great branches separate from the trunk, affords a very agreeable seat, and shade in summer; and tradition says, that one of the hospitable proprietors, after liberally entertaining his guests in the castle, was wont to conduct them to this tree, and give them an additional bicker there: In those days, it was usual with people of rank, to drink out of wooden cups or bickers tipped with silver.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 4 dumb people in this parish. One became dumb after he was 4 years of age, in consequence of a stroke on the head: He enjoys the faculty of hearing in perfection, and is abundantly intelligent and active. Another articulates a little, and is quite deaf, occasioned by a fever; two of one family have been both deaf and dumb from their birth: All the 4 are abundantly sensible and active, and attend public worship regularly.—The common people in this and the neighbouring parishes, pronounce the diphthong *oi* with a long and broad accent, giving it the sound of *ow*, for instance, they make no distinction of sound, between *boil* and *bowl*. They use the Scots dialect; some names of places are derived from Gaelic, as *Balcarres*, 'the town of sheep,' *Kincraig* 'the end of a rock,' &c.



*Advantages and Disadvantages, &c.*—There is a considerable number of coal fields in this parish, which have, in great measure, served the adjacent country for some centuries past, and afford coal of various kinds, as hard, splent, parret, and soft, known here by the name of cherry; and of a mixed nature, in many places; all generally good of their kinds: The strata are subject to many interruptions, as is the case with most of the coal in the inland parts of Fife, being often broken off, or thrown into different directions, by hitches as they are called, which are of very different thicknesses, composed variously of heterogeneous materials; the coal strata themselves also differing in thickness, quality, striking, and declivity; seldom found to go much deeper than 30 fathoms from the surface; whereas the coal strata, close by the sea, both here, and in many other parts of our island, are said to run for miles, almost in the same direction, and of the same dimensions. The coal fields in this parish that have been worked are Balcarres coal.—Kilbrackmont coal, the property of Miss Scott of Scotstarvet.—South Falfield coal, the property of Mr Bethune of Blebo. The above mentioned coals are not worked at present, but might afford more coal, were engines erected, or mines driven deeper than formerly to carry off the water.—Reres coal, the property of Mr Bayne of Reres, worked by a mine, employs 6 men, a grieve, and oversman. The price of a cart load, 75 stone weight, is 2 s. 6 d.—Lathallan coal, the property of Major Lumisdaine of Lathallan, worked by a mine, affords both hard and soft coal, frequently of good quality; employs at present 8 colliers, 2 windlace-men, and a superintendent. The price of a cart load 75 stone weight, is 2 s. 2 d.—Largo-Ward coal, the property of James Calderwood Durham, Esq; of Largo, consists of many short strata, lying in transverse directions, worked



worked by a mine of 3540 yards, upwards of 2 miles long, produces hard and soft coal, generally of good quality, employs at present 37 people for the various purposes, with 2 grieves, and one overfman.—North Falfield coal, the property of the above designed Mr Durham, worked by a steam engine, erected in 1784, which drains two distinct coal fields, each consisting of 2 strata, one of a mixed nature, about 5 feet thick, the other fine parret, in great request for the clear light it affords, and other properties: of these strata the one is 9 feet thick for 60 yards, then gradually diminishing for about 60 yards, till it comes to 5 feet thick, where splent becomes perceptible, united to the parret on the pavement, the splent increafing in an uniform progressive manner, and the parret diminishing in the same proportion, till its thickness becomes 4 feet, where the coal is cut off by a hitch of considerable thickness, and leaves the parish. The other stratum is excellent parret, in some places 9 feet thick, but not uniform; the coal is always best where it is thickest. This colliery employs seldom less than 40, sometimes more than 50 men, with one as griever and accountant, and another as engineer and overfman.—Consumption of one year, at an average for 7 years past, is as follows:

Coals at 18 stone the load of the various kinds,

|                 |   |                    |
|-----------------|---|--------------------|
| Loads,          | - | 47,572             |
| Yearly returns, | - | L. 1553 : 17 : 11½ |

The pits by which the greater part of the coal is put out, are 54 or 56 yards deep. This must have been a colliery for a considerable time, as an account is to be seen in Largo house of so many loads of parret coal, driven yearly from Falfield to Falkland, a distance not less than 10 miles, for the use of King James VI. his own chamber. The  
colliers



colliers of this parish are tolerably regular and industrious.

*Fish.*—Cod, skate, ling, turbot, and shell-fish of various kinds are in great plenty on the coast in all the seasons. Besides the great quantities sold here, many are sent to the Edinburgh market; haddocks, for which our coast is famous, have deserted us for some years past. Whales and grampuses are sometimes seen here. The length of coast washed by the sea, belonging to this parish, is about 2 miles, all rock and sand. The farmers next the coast have access to sea-ware, which is excellent manure for raising barley, and to some kelp. The scarcity of growing timber for farming utensils, is a disadvantage to the farmers.

*Manners.*—The gentlemen who reside on their estates, contribute not a little to the good order and happiness of their tenants, and the other inhabitants of the parish; being affable, humane, and hospitable to all around them, they secure the affection, esteem, and attachment of their dependents, and by employing a variety of tradesmen and labourers in the field, they are benefactors to many. They are abundantly active, and public spirited likewise with respect to the improvement of roads. The farmers are intelligent sensible men in general, who, by means of their knowledge and industry, live comfortably, and several of them genteelly, notwithstanding the high-rents. The manufacturers and tradesmen are generally industrious and regular. The people of this parish are much improved in point of sobriety; they are seldom seen in clubs in public houses, and instances of drunkenness are very rare; 30 or 40 years ago, public houses were much frequented here by people of all ranks; in these days they drank much brandy, and other spiritous liquors.



liquors, which were not only destructive to health, but proved fertile causes of intoxication and quarrels; now, not only gentlemen and farmers, but people of almost every description, entertain their friends and acquaintances in their own houses, where they drink milder and less intoxicating liquors, and in greater moderation; the society of the female sex, securing decency, politeness, and agreeable conviviality.—The tradesmen of the village of Kilconquhar make a fine appearance on his Majesty's birth-day; so many handsome, genteel, well dressed young men, can hardly be mustered in any other place of equal extent and population in the country: Perfect order, decorum, and loyalty, are manifest in every expression, motion and countenance, during the whole procession and festivity.—Notwithstanding the confusions and disorders we hear of in other parts of the country, it must afford high pleasure to all lovers of order and of their country, to observe the inhabitants of this parish in general, sensible of the unparalleled happiness we enjoy as members of a community, under the protection of the wise laws of our most excellent constitution, and the mild administration of our most gracious Sovereign, dwelling in peace and safety, in full and secure possession of liberty and property, with none to make us afraid; while we continue, (according to the injunction of the wisest of men, under the direction of Divine inspiration) to fear God, to honour the King, and not to meddle with them that are given to change.

#### NOTE.

*Diseases.*—1. Febrile Diseases.—Inflammation of the throat and breast, rheumatism, croup, erysipelas, spitting of blood, consumption of the lungs, catarrh, very common and frequent. Inflammation of the brain, bowels, liver and kidneys, not frequent. Gout and dysentery, very uncommon. Intermittent fever, very frequent formerly in the village of Kilconquhar.



Kilconquhar. Continued fever, frequently endemic. Natural small-pox and measles, epidemic from time to time. Inoculated small-pox, few instances.—2. Nervous Diseases.—Apoplexy, epilepsy, cholera morbus, not frequent. Palsy, fainting, not unfrequent. Locked jaw, diabetes canine madness, no instance for 20 years past. Hooping cough, epidemic from time to time. Diarrhoea, very frequent. Insanity, one instance at present.—3. Cachectical Diseases.—General dropsy, dropsy of the belly, scrofula, very frequent. Tympany, jaundice, not unfrequent. Dropsy of the brain and breast, rickets, uncommon. Atrophy, lues venerea, scurvy, no instances.—4. Local Diseases.—Iliac passion, suppression of urine, not frequent. Hernia, abortion, not uncommon. Flooding, frequent. Gangrene, rare. Cancer, very rare. Aneurism, no instance.—5. Anomalous Diseases.—Casualties, drunkenness, few instances. Dentition, frequent. Gravel and stone, pretty frequent. Worms, very common.

NUMBER



NUMBER XX.

PARISH of MUCKART,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIR-  
LING, PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER.)

By the Rev. Mr ANDREW GIBSON.

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*Name, Extent, Soil, Climate, &c.*

MUCKART, was anciently written *Mucard*, and is said to be compounded of two Gaelic words, *Muc* and *Ard*, the first signifying "a wild boar," the last "high," or a height. It is probable, that it derives its name in consequence of that part of the Ochil hills which is situated in the parish, having been formerly infested by the wild boar, an animal which for this century past has been unknown in Scotland. The parish is of a triangular form. It is about 5 miles in length, from E. to W. and between 2 and 3 in breadth, from N. to S. containing about 4500 acres of land, 3000 of which are arable, and 1500 hill ground, fit only for pasture. The soil is mostly of a light and gravelly nature, and a small part of clay. The west part of the parish, adjoining to Dollar, the lowest lying of which is upwards of



of 60 feet above the level of the sea, produces very good oats, barley, and pease. The middle and east part, which is between 500 and 600 feet above the level of the sea, produces the same kinds of grain, but of a much inferior quality. There have been of late several trials made of sowing wheat in the parish, which have succeeded indifferently well in the west part of it; but in the east part, the ground is too high, light and silly for it. Almost the whole soil, being sandy and dry, is well adopted for the culture of potatoes and turnip, though hitherto few of the last have been in use to be sown. They now begin to be somewhat more frequently raised than formerly. The climate, in general, is sharp and cold, owing to the highness of the situation; but it is more mild and temperate in the west part of the parish, where the ground lies low, than in the east part of it, where it is high. The difference is perceptible at all seasons of the year, but especially in winter, in times of frost and snow.—As the parish lies along the foot of the Ochils, it is frequently covered with fogs and mists, owing to its vicinity to these hills; and to the same cause, it is perhaps more subject to rains, than places at a greater distance from the hills. The inhabitants, however, are remarkably healthy, and a considerable proportion of them live to an advanced age. There is at present one woman, aged 88; and there were lately living in one house, at the same time, a husband, his wife, and his sister, all above 84. No local distempers are prevalent. Rheumatism seems to be more common than any other.

*Hills, River, &c.*—Besides the Blairhill and Lawhill, there is a part of the ridge of the Ochils in the parish. The one at the back of the kirk called Sea male, is about 1350 feet above the level of the sea; but it does not seem to be of so great a height, owing to its arising from an elevated,



vated base. These hills are beautiful and green, and are excellent pasture for sheep. The tops of them are mostly covered with bent, and some of them with heath. The river Dovan runs S. E. along the N. E. part of the parish to the Crook, where it turns round a small point of land, changes its course from E. to W. and runs W. along the south side of the parish, intersecting it near the west end, in one place, and cutting off to the south side one farm or plough of land. The Dovan abounds with burn trout of an excellent flavour, of a darkish colour, with red spots; and there is also salmon that come from the Forth, as far up as the Cauldron lin, but they have not been able to get above it. There is no town, and only one small village in the parish.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers then were 535.—There are at present 140 families and 526 persons in the parish.—Of these there are

|                           |     |                       |    |
|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------|----|
| Under 10 years of age,    | 128 | Of Burgher Seceders,  | 10 |
| Between 10 and 20,        | 119 | Of Cameronians,       | 3  |
| — 20 and 50,              | 173 | Male servants,        | 38 |
| — 50 and 70,              | 89  | Female servants,      | 33 |
| — 70 and 100,             | 17  | Wrights,              | 6  |
| Males,                    | 239 | Masons,               | 6  |
| Females,                  | 287 | Blacksmiths,          | 4  |
| Married persons,          | 192 | Weavers,              | 23 |
| Widowers,                 | 6   | Tailors,              | 5  |
| Widows,                   | 17  | Shoemakers,           | 6  |
| Bachelors who keep house, | 4   | Flether,              | 1  |
| Of the Established        |     | Surgeon,              | 1  |
| Church,                   | 264 | Antiburgher minister, | 1  |
| Of Antiburgher Sece-      |     | Minister of the Esta- |    |
| ders,                     | 249 | blished Church,       | 1  |



Table of the births and marriages since the 1786, and of the deaths in the 1791 and 1792.

| Years. | Births. | Deaths. | Marriages. |
|--------|---------|---------|------------|
| 1787,  | 18      | 0       | 6          |
| 1788,  | 15      | 0       | 9          |
| 1789,  | 15      | 0       | 4          |
| 1790,  | 14      | 0       | 5          |
| 1791,  | 13      | 7       | 4          |
| 1792,  | 14      | 8       | 3          |

*Agriculture, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 2161 : 13 : 4 Scots.—The real rent was lately estimated in a rental given in to the Court of Teinds, in a process of augmentation of stipend, at L. 1089 Sterling. There are 38 proprietors of land, 21 of whom reside. The greatest number of these have from L. 5 to L. 50 Sterling a-year; a few have from L. 50 to L. 80; and only two are worth above L. 100. Of these, the one was estimated in the rental before mentioned at L. 115, and the other at L. 120 a-year. The lands belonging to the non-residing heritors are farmed mostly by tenants, but the greatest part of the residing heritors occupy their own lands, which they labour chiefly themselves, with the assistance of their children, a few of them having, besides what they possess themselves, some small pendicles let to tenants. The ground that is inclosed is commonly let yearly by public roup some time in the month of April, for that season, in separate inclosures, for the purpose of grazing; which generally brings a better rent to the proprietor than could be made by tillage. A considerable part of the lands in the parish is inclosed, but the greatest part is still open, and in a natural state. Some of the proprietors are not sufficiently sensible of the advantages of inclosing, and do not seem to aspire at



at any thing farther than to trade in the footsteps of their predecessors; if they can attain this, their ambition carries them no higher. Besides, though they had a proper sense of the advantages of inclosing, the smallness of the possessions of many of them, and their being in the custom of maintaining families upon them, however small, renders it difficult for them to spare money for this useful purpose. To this may be added, that the whole lands in the parish are thirled to Muckart mill, and liable to pay a heavy multure. All which may be considered as hindrances to improvements in agriculture. The number of horses, black cattle, and sheep, cannot be ascertained with precision. As the inclosed farms are annually let for the purpose of grazing, the numbers are constantly varying; but it is computed, that there are usually about 140 horses, 620 black cattle, and 320 sheep in the parish. The reason why there are so few sheep, is, that a great part of the hill ground is inclosed with stone fences that are sufficient for black cattle, but not for sheep, and therefore black cattle are mostly pastured on the hills.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The archbishop of St Andrew's was originally patron of the parish, and titular of the tithes. The King is now patron. The stipend is L. 44 : 8 : 0  $\frac{10}{12}$  Sterling, with a manse and a glebe of about 10 acres. A process of augmentation is now depending. Besides the Established Church, there is an Antiburgher meeting-house. There is one established schoolmaster, who has L. 100 Scots of salary, and about L. 16 Sterling of interest of money, mortified by different persons for the behoof of the schoolmaster. Besides this, he has a right to a school, school-house, and garden, by another mortification, which the heritors are obliged to keep in repair, otherwise they forfeit the benefit of it. The whole, with the profits of  
the



the school and other emoluments, may be estimated about L. 36 Sterling. The average of the scholars is about 36.—As there are few opulent, so there are not many poor in the parish, who are under the necessity of living upon charity. They do not, at an average, exceed 6, and the interest of the funds mortified for the behoof of the poor, with the collections at the church door, are sufficient to maintain them. These added together, make about L. 18 Sterling a-year\*.

*Natural Curiosities.*—The Rumbling Bridge is built in a hollow over the river Dovan, between the parishes of Muckart and Fossaway. It consists of one arch of 22 feet in span and 12 in breadth. At this place there was originally a bridge of wood. The present stone one was built about the year 1713, by one William Gray, a native of the parish of Saline. It is over a narrow chasm that seems to have been worn through the rock by the river, about 86 feet deep. To look over the bridge down to the river is awful. In some places the waters are scarcely visible, when there is no flood in them, having a concealed course below the rocks, through which they have worn a passage. In others, they are seen gushing among the stones with great rapidity. The rocks on the sides in many places project over one another. At both ends of the bridge, and at various parts on the face of the rocks, are trees and bushes, where daws and hawks have their nests, and from which they are often flying forth. The whole furnishes a most romantic

\* *Public houses.*—There are 3 public houses, whose employment arises chiefly from stranger travellers, and from the drivers of coals from Blair-gone and Dollar to Strathern. As the greatest part of their business, flows from persons of the above descriptions stopping to refresh themselves and their horses, and not from the inhabitants of the place, they have not much influence upon the morals of the people.



romantic scene.—A little higher up is the De'il's Mill, a name taken from the similarity there is between the place and a grinding mill. Here the river, after running by a quick descent, between rocks in a narrow course for some time comes into a kind of basin formed in the rock; out of which the water falls about 14 or 15 feet among the stones, making a dreadful noise, resembling the noise of the happer and clap of a mill. There are several conjectures about what is the cause of the clap that is heard. Some think it is occasioned by the river's falling on a large stone suspended between the rocks, and striking against them by means of the force of the waters; others, that it is owing to the air's being carried down by the falling of the water into a vacuity below the rocks, and causing a clap, by regularly bursting out as it is condensed. — The Cauldron Linn, which is about a mile below the Rumbling Bridge, exhibits a still more romantic scene. At a distance is heard the noise of the falls of water, and of the river running by a quick descent among the stones with great rapidity, in a confined course, through which it has to force its passage. The noise increases as you come nearer to the place, which you do not see till you are upon it. The first thing that strikes the eye, are the high rocks on the sides of the river, through which it appears to have worn its way. These rocks are some of them perpendicular, and others project over the river and almost meet. They are on both sides nearly of an equal height, and on a level; but as there are two cascades, they are much higher from the surface of the water below the second cascade, and even above it, than they are from the surface of the water above the first. At the first cascade, the river, after a short fall, lights on rock hollowed in a curious wonderful manner, into deep cavities of different forms and sizes; most of which are of a cylindric form, open on one side,  
or



or of a circular form like cauldrons. One of these is much larger than the rest, over which the rock on the south side of the river is a little projected. In this cavity or cauldron, the water seems as if it were always boiling round, having a thick brown or yellow scum on the top; owing to its great agitation, bearing a striking resemblance to the working of malt liquor in a large brewing vessel. From this the name of Cauldron Linn is taken. A little farther down is the second and great cascade, where the river hath worn its way through the rock, and when there is no flood in the water, it runs below a beautiful arch of solid rock; but this arch must in time be carried away by the violence of the current, or be undermined by the wearing of the water. The height of this fall to the surface of the water, where it drops, is about 44 feet; and the height from the top of the fall to the top of the rocks is about 44 feet; so that the whole height of the rocks from the top to the surface of the water below the fall, is about 88 feet. Below this cascade the rocks widen considerably, and in the cliffs on the face of them, the daws and hawks build their nests. Beneath the rocks there is a steep brae on both sides, covered with trees and bushes, through which there is a foot-path to the edge of the river, from which there is an excellent view of the great cascade.

*Coal and Lime.*—There are both coal and lime in different parts of the parish; but for some time past, neither of these hath been wrought to great extent. The whole coal in the parish belongs to the Duke of Argyle, who, as superior, has a privilege of working coal in any part of the feuars lands, upon his paying surface damages. This privilege, and also the lime rock in the lands of Muckartmill, belonging to his Grace, are let to a Company, who are only working the lime at present, for which they have much greater demands than they are able to answer. The  
inhabitants



inhabitants are supplied with coal from the coal pits in the neighbourhood at Blairngone and Dollar.

*Roads and Bridges.*—Two roads run through the parish; the one from Kinross to Stirling; the other from Queen's Ferry to Strathern, by Blairngone; and there are, besides the Rumbling Bridge formerly mentioned, other three bridges over the Dovan, between the parishes of Muckart and Fossaway; one on the road near the old manse of Fossaway; one on the road from Kinross to Stirling; and one on the road from Queen's Ferry to Strathern, a little north from Blairngone. As this last is a very public road, it is of great importance that it be made as easy for travellers and carriages as possible. Accordingly, an act of Parliament hath lately been obtained for making it a turnpike road, that it may be put and kept in proper repair, which, when done, must be of great advantage to the public.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXI.

## PARISH OF TONGLAND,

(COUNTY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT, SYNOD OF GALLOWAY,  
PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT).

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM ROBB.*

*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, and Climate.*

**I**N ancient writings, the name of this parish is spelled *Tungland*, and in modern, *Tongueland* and *Tongland*. I know of no derivation from which it hath received this name. Probably it may have got the appellation from its external shape, resembling a human tongue, as it lies bounded by the river Dee and the water of Tarff; but this derivation is given as a probable conjecture only. It is from N. to S. between 7 or 8 miles long, and in breadth from 3 to 4 miles from E. to W. In the south end of the parish it is only about 2 miles, or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in breadth. The surface, in the south end of the parish, consists of a long ridge of high ground, running from S. to N. with a gradual declivity to the river Dee on the E. and the water of Tarff on the W.

In



In the north end it is rocky and moorish, interspersed with rising ground, small hills, moss, and valley land, and spots of natural meadow ground. In the west side of the parish, and upon each side of the water of Tarff, there is a considerable quantity of fine natural meadow ground, which yields large crops of hay, but in wet seasons is much damaged by floods. The soil of the parish is good in general, and consists of a considerable variety. In the south end of the parish it consists of a fine red mould, upon a rocky and tilly bottom, but of a fertile nature, and agrees remarkably well with gentle rains in summer. In the middle of the parish, in some places, it is a mixture of sand upon a pebbly bottom, which agrees ill with dry seasons. In the north end it consists of mossy soil, upon a stony bottom, and is naturally barren, and more suited for pasture than agriculture. There are, however, a number of arable spots interspersed, which yield luxuriant crops, when manured with lime. The moorish soil, covered with heath and bentish grass, affords good pasture for sheep and black cattle. The south end, and middle of the parish, in general, is of a fertile soil, and excellently suited either for the purposes of agriculture, or breeding and rearing of black cattle and sheep. In many parts of the north end, the soil is moorish and unfruitful, being interspersed with rocky ground.—The air is pure, dry, and very wholesome. There are no stagnating lakes, and little low or marshy ground. The rivers produce a constant and free circulation of air. The inhabitants are healthful, and subject to no local diseases peculiar to the place. The inoculation of the small-pox has made rapid progress of late years, among all ranks, and is attended with its usual success.



*Present State of Agriculture and Improvement.*—The improvement and cultivation of land have made a rapid progress in this parish of late years. The industry of the husbandman, which lay long buried in a state of indolence, is now roused from its profound lethargy, and awakened to the most active exertions. Ancient prejudices are removed, and the face of this parish is almost totally changed of late, with respect to the mode of the management and cultivation of the soil. The lands are now inclosed with stone fences, and the several farms subdivided by stone fences, ditches, or hedges, suited to the nature of the different soils. The farmers are now convinced of the great benefit of different kinds of manure; and in proportion to their different abilities, are active in the improvement of their farms. The indulgent spirit of the proprietors in giving the farmers suitable encouragement, would soon bring agriculture to a high degree of improvement. The farmers have lately almost altogether changed that wretched mode of management, in which their ancestors had obstinately persevered for many centuries. This will appear in the clearest manner, from a state of this parish, and the mode of managing the land about 60 or 70 years ago, different from the present, as afterward will be pointed out. The first openings of the great advantage of inclosing, subdividing, and improving land here, took their rise from the example and active exertions of the late John Dalryell, Esq; of Barnclough, and a proprietor of land in this parish. He was the first who discovered and made use of marl. By this manure, he raised, upon the poorest land, the most luxuriant crops of different kinds of grain, to the astonishment of all the country around. He meliorated the soil, and raised the finest crops of natural and artificial grasses of different kinds. He gave the first example of amending the breed of horses, black cattle, and sheep. The pasture being improved, he was enabled



enabled to breed the best cattle, and fatten them in the highest degree for the butcher. His example and success, roused the gentlemen and farmers to begin and pursue his mode, and raised an uncommon spirit of improvement in this place. The farmers having exhausted the marl, improve the land now with lime from England, imported at the harbour of Tongland, at the rate of 1 s. and 1 s. 1 d. the Carlisle bushel, which is equal to about 3 Winchester bushels. They make use of sea-shells as a manure, which they import at the same harbour, at the rate of 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d. the ton. They use light ploughs of the English form, and plough their land with 2 horses, without a driver. They use 3 horses, with a driver, in ploughing the 1st furrow, and in stiff and four land. They lay out their land by sowing rye-grass and clover, which produce good crops of hay, and form a rich pasture for feeding their cattle. They are coming gradually into the custom of using green crops. The greatest obstacle to the present spirited exertion of the husbandman, is the very high rent of land in its natural state, and the great expense of procuring manure. In the present season therefore of industry, and spirited exertion, nothing can be more hurtful and impolitic to the improvement of agriculture, than the proprietors of land raising it upon the tenants to a racked rent in its natural state. This damps the spirit of industrious tenants, throws them into a state of despair, and deprives them of all the means of industry and improvement. It is to be hoped, that the good sense, and benevolent spirit of the gentlemen in this corner, will prevent them from falling into an error so fatal to the success of agriculture, and to the general good of the country. The industrious farmer, in the scale of society, merits due encouragement from the proprietors of land in every well regulated state. It is to be hoped, that their interest



interest in this respect will never be lost view of by their superiors.

*Produce of Land in Agriculture and Pasturage, &c.*—The land in this parish is well suited for both. The farmers raise excellent crops of oats, barley and bear, from the improved land. There is little wheat, pease or rye sown, as they are not deemed so suitable for the soil. As the soil is thin, they find wheat is a great impoverisher. They plant great quantities of potatoes, in the drill form, which thrive well, and make ample returns to them for their labour. Excellent crops of barley and bear are raised from the potato ground the ensuing season. Good crops of rye-grass and clover are raised, when the improved land is laid out for pasture. There is no fixed rotation of crops observed by the farmers, but every one varies his practice, according to his particular taste, and the nature of the soil. There are considerable quantities of natural meadow ground in different places, particularly on each side of the water of Tarff, and great quantities of meadow hay are produced from them every year. The hay on the Tarff is reckoned of an inferior quality, from being much sanded by frequent inundations in rainy summers. When it is cut, great quantities of it are carried down the water by sudden falls of rain. There is little flax produced, except what the farmers make use of for their families; many parts, however, are well suited for this article. The farmers breed a considerable number of young cattle every year. The late improvement of the land has greatly improved their pasture grounds, which enables them to keep more cows, and to feed them better. Their young cattle thrive well in general, and numbers keep them out in the fields in winter before they are a-year old, and feed them with straw and hay. Their cattle are of the Galloway kind,  
and



and are much coveted in England by the graziers, from their shape, and being easily fattened. They in general have no horns, and for that reason are the more coveted by the cattle-dealers. Their beef is reckoned uncommonly tender, delicate and juicy, and is much prized in the Norfolk and London markets. They have paid great attention of late, in the choice of their cows and bulls, to have them of the most approved make and shape. There are some of the Bakewell breed of cattle introduced here of late years. They breed excellent horses for the draught, which are reckoned hardy in enduring labour, both in ploughing and carting. The north end of the parish being moorish, answers well for sheep-pasture. The sheep are of the black faced kind, are hardy, and endure the winter-storms. The farmers in the south end, and middle of the parish, keep only a few sheep of the Bakewell and Cully species for the use of their families, and a few of them for sale. The pasture being good, they thrive well. There are none of the Spanish breed here; but some of them are introduced into the neighbourhood by Lord Daer, a young nobleman, who pays uncommon attention to every species of improvement that can be useful to the country, both in agriculture, manufactures and roads. Some hogs are produced, both for sale and for home consumption. There are nearly about 1200 black cattle, of which are about 220 milk cows, and the remainder, cattle of different ages, from one to 4 years old. The yell cattle \* vary in numbers according to the seasons of the year. In summer they keep more, and in winter fewer. Their yell cattle are fed out of doors in the winter season with straw and hay. The milk cows are housed. There are in whole about 129 horses of different ages, and about 790 sheep of the different kinds, and between 80 and 90 hogs of different ages. There are 35 ploughs, and 58 carts employed for the purposes

\* Cattle not giving milk.



poses of agriculture, leading manure, bringing home fuel, and exporting the produce in grain and potatoes \*.

*Rental, &c.*—The valued rent in the cess-books of the county is L. 2815 : 6 : 8 Scots. The real rent now paid is nearly about L. 2680, 7 s. Sterling, and is still rising, upon the giving new leases to the tenants. The land is let at various rates the acre, according to its richness and fertility, from 5 s. to 10 s. 12 s. 15 s. and some rich spots at L. 1 the acre, without any allowance for manure. Some of the land is thought to be very dear, and other parts moderate, as is the general case in every parish. It requires great industry and good management in the tenants to be able to pay the present rents in general. The farms for the most part are large, paying from L. 60 to L. 150 and L. 190 Sterling of yearly rent; some few at L. 15, L. 20 and L. 30 Sterling. There was a stagnation in the rent of land about the middle of the American war; but since its conclusion, land has risen rapidly, both in its price and yearly value. The farms are large, and what was let about 40 or 50 years ago in *runrig*, to 4, 5, and 8 tenants, is now let to one tenant *in cumulo* †.

#### *Population.*—

\* *Seed-time and Harvest.*—This parish consists of dry and thin land, which produces an early seed-time and harvest. In dry springs, the seed-time begins about the middle of March, and the sowing of corn is finished by the middle of April. Barley and bear are sown about the latter end of April, and beginning of May. Potatoes are planted in the month of May. Bear and barley harvest begins about the middle of August. Corn harvest begins, in general, the beginning of September, and is finished about the end of that month. The harvest is a little later in some moorish places, in the north end of the parish.

† *Price of Labour and Provisions.*—The price of labour has increased greatly of late. An able-bodied servant man, suited for the labour of a farmer, receives L. 9 and L. 10 Sterling a-year, with his victuals. Ser-

vant



*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population was then 537. By a careful survey in 1792, the number of the inhabitants, old and young, amounts to 520. It is generally believed that population has decreased within these 40 or 50 years past. Of the above number, there are 249 males and 271 females. The record of baptisms before the 1769 had received no kind of attention. The average of baptisms and marriages, hath been 13 baptisms, and 8 or 9 marriages yearly, since the 1769. There has never been a record of burials kept. The letting of large farms to one tenant, which were formerly let to 4, 6, and 8 tenants, must be an obvious cause of depopulation, joined with the late erection of

of  
vant women receive L. 3 and L. 4 Sterling a-year, with their victuals. The men receive L. 1, 5 s. and L. 1, 10 s. Sterling, and some more, for the labour of the harvest, with victuals. Women receive L. 1 and L. 1, 5 s. Sterling, for the harvest, with victuals. In summer, common labourers, 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. a-day, without victuals; and 8 d. 9 d. and 10 d. with victuals; in winter, 10 d. without, and 7 d. with victuals. Good mowers of hay, 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 8 d. without, and 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. with victuals. Masons and carpenters, 1 s. 8 d. and 1 s. 9 d. without, and 1 s. and 1 s. 2 d. with victuals. Tailors, 8 d. and 9 d. a-day, with victuals. The farmers, of late years, find much difficulty in finding labourers at the above high wages, which bears hard upon them, and renders the labour of agriculture very expensive. This is owing of late to the introduction of the cotton manufacture, which occupies great numbers, who formerly were engaged in the labour of agriculture.—The price of oatmeal is generally, in fruitful seasons, about 1 s. 6 d. and 1 s. 9 d. the stone, which is equal to 2 pecks of Linlithgow measure. Potatoes are 1 s. and 1 s. 4 d. the peck. In the years of scarcity, 1782 and 1783, the price of meal was high, but there was still plenty of it in this corner, owing, in a great measure, to the early season of the harvest in this and some of the neighbouring parishes. The price of beef is generally 3 d. and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound, English weight; and mutton and lamb, 2 d.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 3 d. the pound, ditto weight; pork, at 2 d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. the pound, ditto weight. Fresh beef and mutton is generally high priced in the spring. Butter is 6 d. and 7 d. the pound, English; and cheese,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. and 3 d. the pound, ditto weight. These prices may all of them be reckoned reasonable, considering the high rent of land, and the high wages paid by the farmer for every article of labour, in the management of his farm.



of villages, and the introduction of the cotton-manufacture into various parts of this neighbourhood. But the above are only arguments for a local, not a general depopulation in this corner; as the additional population in towns and in villages, compensate for any local deficiency in a particular part of the country.

*Rivers, and Salmon-Fishing.*—The water of Tarff runs in a direction from N. to S. through the west side of the parish, and forms a junction with the river Dee at the farthest S. point of it. It takes its rise from a lake called Lochwhinnock, in the parish of Girthon. It abounds with trout and pike, and in the summer and harvest there are sea-trouts, called herlings, and grilse and salmon, which run up into it from the sea. In floods it affords good sport for the angler. Its banks, in some parts, are adorned with natural wood, and fine natural meadow-ground. There are two bridges upon it, one about the middle of the parish, where the military road from Carlisle to Port-Patrick crosses it, and another farther S. near its extremity, where it joins with the river Dee, and where there is a harbour for shipping. Here there is a great quantity of lime and sea-shells imported every year for manure, during the summer season. The river Dee runs on the eastern and southern sides of the parish. It is a large and rapid river. Opposite to this parish its bottom is rocky, and its banks are steep and rugged, and adorned with natural wood of various kinds: This gives it a bold and romantic appearance. It abounds with salmon in the fishing season, which begins generally in the month of February, and ends the 26th of August. But few of them get above the works, termed Doachs, erected across the river, nearly opposite to the corn-mills and church of Tongland, excepting in very high floods. Above and below the church and manse, the bottom



tom of the river is rocky. This, in large floods, forms the most beautiful cascades of broken water. There is a bridge of two arches built across the river, a little south of the church and manse, where the river is narrow, upon a rocky foundation. The falls of the river to a person standing upon this bridge in a large flood produce a grand and awful sensation. Here we behold a train of the most beautiful cascades of broken water, tearing and roaring, over the rugged rocks, with the most tremendous noise. About 20 yards below the bridge, there is one of the grandest falls of water to be seen in the south of Scotland. Indeed, travellers who have seen it in a great flood, have averred, that it is equal, if not superior, to many of the remarkable falls of water in the Highlands. Here the river runs over a ridge of rock across the bottom, and falls into a deep lin. It is so remarkable an object in nature, that it has called forth the attention of the Scottish Muse, in the ancient poem of the *Cherry and the Slae*, composed by Captain Montgomery, who lived in the neighbourhood, at Cranston castle, and naturally describes this fall in the 6th stanza of that poem, as follows:

“ To pen the pleasures of that Park,  
How every blossom branch and bark  
Against the sun did shyne,  
I pass to Poetis to compyle  
In high heroic statlie style  
Quuhais Muse furmathes myne:  
But as I lukit myne alane,  
I saw a river rin,  
Out’wore a steepie rock of stane  
Syne lichtit in a lin,  
With tumbling, and rumbling  
Amang the rockis round,  
Devalling and falling,  
Into a pit profound.”



The above is a just and natural description of this tremendous fall of water, and perfectly agreeable to the appearance in nature. The sound and the sense are admirably imitated by the poet. Perhaps our favourite and descriptive poet, Mr Thomson, could not have exceeded it, had he seen the object with his own eyes.—At a considerable distance above the bridge, the doachs or cruives for taking the salmon, are erected across the river. In gentle rises of the water, the salmon run into the cruives, and are taken out sometimes alive, and sometimes dead, according to the length of time they have been in the cruives. Below the bridge there is a place called the Sand-bed, into which the tide flows at high water; here they take great numbers by a boat and a very long draught-net, when the tide flows. A little above this, there is a deep and large basin of water, called the Lin-pool, into which the salt-water flows in spring-tides. Here they take the salmon by a boat with drag-nets; but, in general, by far the greatest number of salmon, grilse and sea trouts, are caught in the night time, by what they term the fishing with the shoulder-nets. This mode of fishing is both curious and ingenious, and merits a minute description. There is a small net fixed to a semicircular bow of iron, and this is fixed to a pole of about 18 feet in length. The fisherman ties a small piece of bended wood, with a groove in it, upon his left shoulder, for the pole of the net to slide upon. Thus equipped, he takes his station in the night, upon a rock at the side of a pool, where he knows the salmon lie, and throws his net straight before him into the water, into which it sinks, and draws it straight to him on the bottom, sliding the pole upon the groove of wood upon his left shoulder, and when he has it near him, he gives the net a quick turn over by the pole, and brings out the fish; and there



is another man standing close by with a club, ready to take hold of the fish and kill them, and take them out to a safe place. In certain places of the river, great numbers of fish are taken in the night time by this mode of fishing. For this purpose there are two shoulder-net men, and one man to kill, generally employed through the fishing season. The principal markets for the salmon are Manchester, Liverpool, and Whitehaven. Early in the season some few are sent to London by land-carriage. The price in the spring is 6 d. the lb. English weight; but when the season is farther advanced, it is sold for 4 d. and 3 d. the lb. The salmon taken at Tongland are much admired for their richness, and delicate taste; but those caught farther down the river, in the fishing yairs at Kirkcudbright, are still more admired by connoisseurs for the richness and delicacy of their curd. The fishing at Tongland, which does not reach to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile upon the side of the river, is let in tack, with a small piece of ground annexed to it, at the yearly rent of L. 305 Sterling, besides paying the public burdens. The land is valued at L. 42 Sterling a-year, and the fishing is L. 263 Sterling. About 68 years ago it was let, with the same piece of ground, at L. 8 Sterling, and the tenant could not pay that rent, but gave it up\*.

*Character and Manners of the Inhabitants.*—They are, in general, a decent and respectable people in their different ranks of life; sensible and rational in their religious principles. No sectaries. They are all warm friends to the principles of the Revolution Government, and the succession of the Family of Hanover. There is not an old woman

\* *Mineral Springs.*—There is a chalybeate spring in the lands of Upper Barncross. The country people use it as a cure in agues, and for complaints in the stomach and indigestion. There is another of the same nature near the House of Upper Barcastle. The waters of both are not strongly impregnated with the iron mineral.



woman in the parish, but would bedaub *Tom Paine* with dirt, if he presumed to set his foot within the verge of it. They hear that the King and the Royal Family go constantly to church on the Sabbath day, and hate Tom Paine for abusing so good a Prince. Numbers of them are terrified that the French-Revolution Government should be introduced among them, for every one chooses to keep what he has lawfully got, and not make an equal division of it among his neighbours. They are industrious and careful about their secular affairs, in their different lines of life, and do not interfere with matters of State; decent in their dress, and good œconomists in their mode of living. None of them have been hanged or banished in modern times. In general they are sober and temperate, notwithstanding that whisky is both cheap and plenty of late years, there being only a few who are votaries of that pernicious beverage. They have made great progress in civilization and good manners, and have made remarkable improvement of late in their houses, dress, and manner of living, as will appear evident from the following authentic sketch of the Statistical state of this parish about 60 or 70 years ago.

At the above period, there was not a hat to be seen in the whole congregation upon a Sunday. They wore Kilmarnock bonnets or caps of different colours. In church they kept on their bonnets and caps during the lecture and sermon, and took them off only during the prayer, the singing of psalms, and the pronouncing the blessing. Few or none of the common people could read, and the precentor read the scriptures to them in church before the minister made his appearance. They had no buckles in their shoes, but tied them with small leather thongs; had no metal buttons on their clothes, but large clumsy buttons of wood moulds, covered over with the  
same



same cloth as the coat. The men wore kelt coats, made of a mixture of black and white wool, as it came off the sheep, in its natural state. Neither men nor women, in general, wore any shirts, and when they did, they were made of coarse woollen; in general, they changed their plaiding shirts twice in the year, at Whitsunday and Martinmas. It was long before linen shirts came into use among the vulgar. They wore no shoes in summer, nor winter, but in the time of severe frost and snow. Their children got no shoes till they were able to go to the kirk. The women wore coarse plaiding or drugget gowns, made of the coarsest wool, and spun in the coarsest manner. The tenants wives wore toys of linen of the coarsest kind, upon their heads, when they went to church, fairs or market. At home, in their own houses, they wore toys of coarse plaiding. The young girls, linen mutches, with a few plaits in them above their foreheads, when they went abroad to the church, or to fairs, or market. At home they went bareheaded, with their hair snooded back on the crown of their head, with a woollen string in the form of a garter. Their houses were the most miserable hovels, built of stone and turf, without mortar, and stopped with fog or straw, to keep the wind from blowing in upon them. They had a window on each side of the house, which they opened or shut as the wind blew, to give them light. These windows they stopped with straw or fern. In such houses, when they kindled a fire, they lived in a constant cloud of smoke, enough to suffocate them, had they not been habituated to it from their infancy. They had many of them no standing beds, but slept on heath and straw, covered with the coarsest blankets, upon the floor. They kept their cattle in the same house with themselves, tied to stakes in one end of the house. There was no division to separate the cattle from themselves. Their furniture consisted



consisted of stools, pots, wooden cogs and bidders. At their meals, they ate and supped altogether out of one dish. They lived in a coarse and dirty manner, and ate of the meanest and coarsest food. In general, their food consisted of brose, pottage, oat-meal flummery, and greens boiled in water with a little salt. The dishes out of which they fed were seldom washed after meals, and of course, were often thick with dirt. Each person in the family had a short haisted spoon made of horn, which they called a *mun*, with which they supped, and carried it in their pocket, or hung it by their side. They had no knives and forks, but lifted the butcher meat they ate with their fingers. They ate little meat at that time excepting the off-falls of their flocks, which died either by poverty or disease. At Martinmas they killed an old ewe or two, as their winter provision, and used the sheep that died of the braxy in the latter end of autumn. At this time their farms had no march fences to separate them from their neighbours. A single farm was let in runrig among a number of tenants, which caused them to live in a constant state of warfare and animosity. The dividing the produce of the farm, according to each tenant's share, became a usual source of quarrels and fighting.

Their mode of agriculture was uncommonly stupid in every stage of the operation. They yoked 6 oxen and 2 horses in one plough, and sometimes 8 oxen and 2 horses. They yoked 4 horses a-breadth in a plough without oxen, and had always one to hold the plough, and another to drive the cattle. They used a heavy clumsy Scots plough, that murdered the weak and half starved animals to drag it after them. Their harrows were heavy and clumsy, with the teeth made of wood instead of iron. In the spring season their horses and oxen fell down in the draught through perfect poverty and weakness. They ploughed great quantities of the land, and had poor returns for their labour.



They took 4 or 5 crops, without putting on any manure. In dry seasons, they could scarcely gather their corn in harvest, upon account of its shortness. They sowed nothing but poor grey Scots oats; their poor land would bear no other species of grain. This kind of oats yielded little meal, and of a dark colour. When their corn came above the ground in the spring, they had constant herding of their cattle day and night, till the harvest was finished, and the corn gathered into their corn yards. They built turf folds in summer in the fields, into which they put their cattle in the middle of the day, when annoyed with the heat; and also at night, to preserve them from destroying their grain. In the night they put all their cattle into these turf folds, and one or two persons watched them every night in summer and harvest, till their corns were got in. By overstocking their farms, the poor animals were starved for want of grass. In the spring, their cattle were so weak, that when they lay down, they could not rise of themselves till they lifted them up. They fell into mosses and quagmires through weakness, and were drowned. In the spring season, it was a constant custom to gather their neighbours together, to assist in lifting their cows and horses, and to drag them out of moss holes. At that time, and for long after, there was not a cart in the parish. They led home their corn and hay in cars, and in trusses on the backs of their horses, and their peats in creels and sacks. They led out their dung on cars, or creels coupled and hung over the horses backs. The women carried out dung in creels on their backs, and the men filled the creels at the dunghill, and lifted it upon their shoulders. This resembled the savage state of society, where all the drudgery of the domestic labour fell to the department of the female sex. At that time there were no saddles nor bridles, and they rode to church and market upon brechams and pillions placed on the  
horses,



horses, and halters on the horses heads made of hair. They shod their horses fore feet, but put no shoes upon their hind feet. The women had no little wheels, but spun with the rock and spindle. Their yarn was uncommonly coarse. They had no candles to give them light in the winter nights. When the goodman\* of the house made family worship, they lighted a ruff, to enable him to read the psalm, and the portion of scripture, before he prayed. The men had no razors, but clipped their beards every Saturday night with scissars, to appear more decent upon the Sunday. The lower class in general were tainted strongly with superstitious sentiments and opinions, which had been transmitted down from one generation to another by tradition. They firmly believed in ghosts, hobgoblins, fairies, elves, witches and wizards. These ghosts and spirits often appeared to them at night. They used many charms and incantations to preserve themselves, their cattle and houses, from the malevolence of witches, wizards, and evil spirits, and believed in the beneficial effects of these charms. They believed in lucky and unlucky days and seasons, in marrying, or undertaking any important business. They frequently saw the Devil, who made wicked attacks upon them when they were engaged in their religious exercises, and acts of devotion. They believed in benevolent spirits, which they termed *brownies*, who went about in the night time, and performed for them some parts of their domestic labour, such as threshing and winnowing their corn, spinning and churning. They fixed branches of mountain ash, or narrow leaved service-tree above the stakes of their cattle, to preserve them from the evil effects of elves and witches. All these superstitious opinions and observations, which they firmly believed, and powerfully influenced their actions,

\* That is, master of the family.



actions, are of late years almost obliterated among the present generation. Both men and women about 60 years ago, were robust and healthy, and subject to few diseases. They were strangers to every complaint of a nervous nature. This arose from the hardy manner in which they were brought up from their infancy, and being accustomed to watch their cattle without doors in the night during the whole summer and harvest season. From the above authentic Statistical Account of this parish about 60 or 70 years ago, compared with its present state of improvement, in agriculture, the manners, dress, and mode of living among its inhabitants, and their present sentiments in religion, the great improvement they have made in agriculture and civilization will appear in the most striking point view; and as they are still in a gradual train of improvement at present, it gives the most flattering prospects of their future progress in the course of time. The greatest danger to their present progress is the raising the land to a racked rent, which industrious tenants may be unable to pay.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church and manse are placed near the south extremity of the parish. This renders the church inconvenient, with respect to its situation, both to the minister and people. The situation of the church and manse on the side of the river Dee is remarkably pleasant. The church is old, but in tolerable good repair. Some of its north wall is a part of the priory, now in ruins. The manse is old, and in bad repair, being slightly finished at first. The glebe, including the seat of the manse and garden, consists of 7 acres of very good land, at an average, worth about L. 1, 5 s. Sterling the acre. The stipend is the smallest in this corner, being only L. 58, 6 s. 8 d. Sterling, with 100 merks for communion-elements,



and stands in much need of an augmentation, from the late great advance upon all the necessary articles of life. The King is patron.—The public school has a salary of L. 100 Scots, with a free house and garden. It is situated in the centre of the parish, and very convenient for the scholars. The school wages are, in general, for reading, 1 s. 6 d.; writing, 2 s.; arithmetic, 2 s. 6 d.; and Latin, 3 s. the quarter, and 10 s. 6 d. for a course of book keeping. There are about 40 or 50 scholars in winter, and about 30 or 40 in summer. The people are very attentive to give their children as much education as their circumstances will admit.—There are only 9 persons upon the poors roll at present; sometimes there is a greater number, and seldom or never a less. They are supported by the collections made at the church, at the time of the sacrament, and what is received for the use of the mortcloth, which, at an average, may amount to about nearly L. 10 Sterling yearly. This is divided among them quarterly, in proportion to their different degrees of necessity. They are allowed to beg through the parish, but none of them without its boundaries. We have no mortified funds for the support of the poor. There is a small sum lent out at interest, which was saved in favourable times, which makes an additional help. Should the number of the poor increase, there will be an indispensable necessity of applying to the heritors, in terms of law, for their maintenance. This parish is pestered with Irish vagrants and sturdy beggars, through all the seasons of the year. The charity given these is extremely detrimental to the native poor of the parish. The clamorous vagrants impose upon the humane and charitable spirit of the people, by their fictitious and tragical tales of misery; and spend the alms they receive, by getting themselves drunk with whisky. In their own societies, over their cups, they boast that they can earn, by the common trade  
of



of begging, 2 s. and often 2 s. 6 d. a-day. It is truly amazing, that the police of this corner allows such a destructive nuisance to honest industry still to prevail.

*Antiquities.*—Contiguous to the church are the ruins of the priory of Tongland. It was founded in the latter end of the 12th century, by Fergus Lord of Galloway. The monks were of the Præmonstratentian order, formed by St Norbert in 1120 in France, and received their name from Præmontre in Champagne, the name of their 1st abbey. Fergus brought them from Cockerland in Lancashire to this priory. Alexander, abbot of Tongland, swears fealty to Edward I. in the 1296. James Herries, prior of Tongland, in the 1430, repaired the monastery of Tongland, which was greatly decayed, and inclosed the precincts with a high wall. He was a Doctor of the Sorbonne, and much famed for his learning, and wrote upon the validity of indulgences\*.

*Advantages*

\* Bishop Lesly tells a story of an abbot of this place, who, in the 1507, undertook to fly through the air to France, from the castle of Stirling, and to be there before the King's Ambassadors, who were just setting off. He took his flight from the walls of the castle, but soon met with the reward of such a foolish attempt, by falling, and breaking his thigh bones. Lord Maxwell was heritable bailie of this abbey, and had the L. 5 land of Cargane, of old extent, in the parish of Troquier, near Dumfries, given him as his bailie-fee. William Melvill was commendator of this abbacy in 1598. Afterwards this abbacy was annexed to the bishoprick of Galloway, upon the bishop of that see complaining of the smallness of its revenue. The ruins show that it had been an abbey of considerable extent. The pilfering and avaricious spirit of the country people had picked out the free stones from time to time, till all fell down in one heap of rubbish. There are several Druidical cairns in different parts of the parish, in which have been found human bones, surrounded with large stones, in form of a grave, but no urns have been found in them. Upon a rocky moor-hill, called Barrstobrick, in the north end of the parish, is still shown the spot of ground where the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots, in 1568, with a few faithful friends in her retinue, rested and refreshed herself, in  
her



*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—By the 2 harbours in the south end of the parish, upon the river Dee and Tarff, the inhabitants have a great advantage for exporting their grain and meal, and of importing manure in lime and sea-shells. They in general have an early seed time and harvest, from the dryness of the soil. They have fine places for erecting water-machinery. There is a paper-mill and corn-mill, near the church, on the river Dee, that have plenty of water in the greatest droughts; many fine situations for erecting cotton-mills. Their greatest disadvantage is scarcity of fuel. The peat mosses are all exhausted; and the nearest moss is 6 miles distant, and is almost exhausted. Coals from England and the west of Scotland, from the heavy duty, are very dear, and quite beyond the reach of the common people. The coals this winter have been L. 1, 12s. the ton; and they are seldom below L. 1, 8s. Sterling. Unless the duty is taken off the coals by Government, both manufactures and agriculture will in the issue go to ruin. The principal fuel in the southern parts of this county is coal; and this article is become so high of late, that it rises to an enormous expense, and is quite beyond the reach of the poor. It is the united wish of all ranks, to have the duty taken off, and laid upon some other article. Could Ministry know the real distress for fuel, which many poor and shivering wretches suffer in this corner, their humanity would instantly excite them to remove

her flight from the fatal battle of Langside, on her way to the abbey of Dundrenan, where she lodged, and from thence crossed the Solway Frith to Cockermouth, in Cumberland. From this event, the farm has been ever since called Queen's Hill. There are some vestiges of old encampments; but of what kind is uncertain. In the moor of Kirkconnel, is a monumental stone put upon the grave of a martyr of the name of Clement, who was shot at that spot in the persecution in the time of Charles II. It is at a great distance from any house.



move a tax, which is now become truly oppressive in this part of the country.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the lands of Kirkconnel there is a fine natural wood, in a very thriving condition. Some of the residing heritors have planted a great number of trees of different kinds of late years. On the top of a hill called Knockmuir, a little to the north of the kirk, there is a most beautiful landscape, and most extensive prospect. It is esteemed the most beautiful in the south of Scotland. In a clear and serene day, many persons of taste, and lovers of nature, flock to this spot, to delight themselves with the varied beauties of the scene. Little snow lies here, but quickly melts, from the natural warmth of the soil.—We have all the natural wild animals that are common to this corner of the country. All the migratory birds appear here very early in their seasons, and some of them continue longer than in some other parts of the county.—There have been no remarkable instances of longevity of late years; but there are a number of persons who are above 80 or 90 years of age. Very few persons have emigrated to America. There are no villages. The cotton manufacture is not as yet introduced here. The cross-roads in the parish are in pretty good repair.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXII.

## PARISH OF ST MONANCE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST  
ANDREW'S.)

*By the Rev. Mr ARCHIBALD GILLIES.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

**B**EFORE the year 1646, the name of the parish was *Abercrombie* \*. With regard to the name St Monance, it has undergone very little variation. In the oldest writs

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\* From which period it has improperly acquired that of St Monance; the reason for which, follows: The lands of Newark (which at present give a title to a Lord of that name) were formerly a part of the parish of Kilconquhar; the tithes of which are still paid to the incumbent of that charge. But in the year 1646, when the lands of Newark and Abercrombie belonged to two near relations of the name of Sandilands, the one bearing the title of Lord Abercrombie, now extinct, and the other Sir James Sandilands of Newark; they, for their conveniency, &c. having previously agreed with Mr Robert Wilkie, then minister of Abercrombie, and a parish by itself, applied to the presbytery of St Andrew's, to have the lands of Newark disjoined from Kilconquhar, without prejudice to the incumbent, and annexed to Abercrombie: Parties being agreed, the

presbytery



I have seen, being sometimes called St Menin, sometimes St Monan, and in modern times, and at present, St Monance. —As to the derivation, amidst the many reports, what to me seems most probable, is, That it originated from the hermit who served at the chapel, and which gave name to the town. And as it became the place of public worship for the parish, and the town the most populous part of it, through time the parish came to be called St Monance alone. For before the period of annexation, the village of Abercrombie was pretty populous, but since has very much diminished. At present, it consists only of one farm-house and offices, the houses of two other small tenants, and a few cottages. The manse and glebe are still in it. The parish is of small extent, and forms nearly a parallelogram, extending from the S. E. where it is washed by the frith of Forth, to the N. W. The breadth from W. to E. is about a short English mile, and from S. to N.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile. The land rises suddenly from the sea, but of no extraordinary height; after which it is flat, with a very gentle and easy ascent upwards to Abercrombie, about a mile, and then declines in the same manner towards the N. the surface affording a very beautiful appearance. The soil in general is a light loam, and friable, very little clay, all quite free of stones, and very fertile and manageable. The whole is arable, excepting a trifle in a natural state, and which is capable of cultivation. The sea coast is flat and rocky. The rocks consist of free and lime stone, and a great quantity of ironstone

presbytery granted their request *quoad sacra*. But whether any application was afterward made to the Lords of plantation, and the same confirmed by them or not, does not appear. After which the name of the parish in the records of presbytery, stood thus: 'The parish of Abercrombie with St Monance.'—At that period, the church (or chapel, as then called) of Abercrombie was suffered to go into ruin, and an old Gothic chapel at St Monance (of which more afterward) became the place of public worship.



ironstone lying scattered upon the surface. It yields a good deal of sea-weed for kelp, which is usually cut every third year, and after gales of wind from the N. E. E. and S. E. a good quantity for manure.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate is mild and temperate, the air dry and salubrious. But when it blows from the E. and S. E. it is sharp and cold, moist, and full of salt particles; for the land is much exposed to the sea on these quarters, and not covered with trees; which if it were, the air would not only be more mild, the surface greatly beautified, but the ground more early in its productions, which are much checked in the spring by the winds from these points, and which commonly blow for a long time at that season. Yet upon the whole, the inhabitants in general are very healthy. There have been no instances of unusual longevity during the incumbency of the present minister. But there are many now living of 70, 76, and 80 years, and some died a few years ago, at the age of 90 and 91. The small-pox used to make great ravages among the children, especially in the town of St Monance. If the contagion got in during the heat of summer, when the air is much tainted with the refuse of the fishing, it was then peculiarly fatal, sweeping off from 20 to 30 children at a time. But its destructive progress has for several years past been in some degree mitigated, by that happy invention, inoculation; and to which the people in general are now becoming more and more reconciled.

*Rivers.*—There are no rivers, but one small brook, which bounds the parish on the W. runs S. intersecting part of the lands of Newark, and empties itself, between the church and town of St Monance, into the frith of Forth. There is another in the lands of Abercrombie, which bounds the  
parish



parish on the east side, runs S. E. between it and the lands of Balcaskie, and disembogues itself between the two Anstruthers. Both are in a manner dry one half of the year. Such is the case with all the rivulets in this part of the county, and which is a great loss to it, where there are so many sea-port towns; there being no river, or running water of any consequence, east side of the river of Leven.

*Mines.*—There is abundance of coal in the lands of Newark, consisting of splint, cherry, and culm, at present working. It is not level free, but wrought by a fire-engine. Likewise one of the neatest and best contrived salt-works upon the coast, called St Philip's; both are the property of Sir John Anstruther, Baronet. The coal and salt, besides what is sold to the country, are exported at Pittenweem. In the lands of Abercrombie there are several seams of coal, but as yet untouched, and which belong to Sir Robert Anstruther, Baronet. Coal abounds in this country, both in the coast and interior parts, and that necessary article for the comfort of life might be obtained at an easy rate. But since of late, coal working has become a trade, by opening only a few at a time, and thus monopolizing them, the price is kept up; and there is no other fuel used, or to be had in this place. This winter the inhabitants have been greatly distressed for want of this article, by the difficulty of obtaining it, and the high price.

*Fisbery, &c.*—Formerly there was a very plentiful fishing upon the coast here, consisting of cod, ling, haddock, rowan or turbot, skait, &c. and St Monance used to be one of the principal fish-towns upon the coast. But within these 4 or 5 years past, the fish have in a manner quite deserted these places, (particularly the haddock) and none are now caught but a few cod, rowan, and skait. Before, fish of all



kinds were in great abundance, and at an easy rate, but now are very scarce, and high priced; not one haddock being taken in a whole year. There has been no sufficient cause as yet assigned for this remarkable change. The shoals of herrings which used with great certainty to frequent the coast, particularly in the autumnal season, and likewise in the spring, are now become very precarious, and of no consequence. This great decrease of the fishing is a vast loss to this part of the country. For as fish was a principal part of the support of the inhabitants, other provisions have greatly advanced in price; and as great quantities of herrings, over and above the home consumpt, were cured and exported, trade has suffered much. Besides, the fishers are threatening an emigration to other places; though as yet only one man and family have left the parish this spring, and gone to the town of Ayr, on the west coast\*.

*Migratory*

\* The common market for the fish is Edinburgh. They are bought up by the fishers of Fisherrow, who attend with their boats, purchase at sea, and carry them off. Formerly the practice was, that out of the fleet of boats belonging to the town, two were obliged in their turn to come into the harbour, and offer market for two hours, for the supply of the inhabitants. But that good regulation being now overlooked, the fishers have wholly laid it aside. This has enhanced the price of fish here, that it is but little below the market at Edinburgh, and they are difficult to be obtained. The lobsters are commonly taken in contract from the fishers by a Company, and carried alive in smacks to the London market, and other places in England. The boats used in the fishing consist of a larger and smaller kind; of the former there are about 14, and of the latter about 20. The small are used both in summer and winter, in what they term the white fishing. Each of these require four men for the oars, and one steersman. With them, they fish with great and small line, for cod, rowan, haddock, &c. and with nets for skate. The larger are used only in the herring fishing; and their complements of men are some six, some eight, according to their size, with a steersman. But besides these, there are a number of yawls, with which, through summer, they fish with  
the



*Migratory Birds, &c.*—There are the swallow and martin, the plover both green and gray, the cuckoo, and but few woodcock. Through the whole of the year, the sea gulls, (called by the vulgar sea maws,) frequently come upon land; but when they do so, it assuredly prognosticates high winds, with falls of rain from the E. and S. E. and as soon as the storm abates, they return again to the frith, their natural element. I saw some time ago, a golden crested wren, and the only one that hath appeared to me in this country. Its size was much about that of the common wren, and nearly the same in the colour of the body. The crown of the head was ornamented with a circle of feathers of a fiery orange, or golden colour, with a beautiful bright spot of yellow in the centre. Hares and partridges abound; a few quails, and some foxes and rabbits in the light grounds.

*Town of St Monance, &c.*—The town is situated upon a spot of a triangular form; one side of which verges upon, and is washed by the frith of Forth, the other two sides are covered by the rising grounds. And as it enjoys a S. and S. E. exposure, it is defended against the cold bleak winds, from the N. E. N. and N. W. Its situation is thereby mild and kindly even in winter, when blowing from these points; but quite the reverse, when the wind blows upon the shore. There is a harbour belonging to the town, the building

the hand-line for the tanny cod, (or red ware cod, as they call it,) among the rocks and sea weed. The hands used in these, are commonly a man and boy, and sometimes only one man. Of the number of hands used in the fishing here, only such as are advanced in life hold close by it. The young men engage to the ships employed in the whale fishing; return when the herring fishing comes on in autumn; and, when that is over, engage themselves in voyages in private ships, in different places, during the winter season. By this means *St Monance* becomes a good nursery for sea men.



building of which is of no great consequence. But what merits observation, is the great depth of water. At stream tides when full water, it is from 18 to 20 feet deep at the entrance; and in ordinary floods, from 13 to 15, though the building extends but a very short way out to sea. But though by this depth of water it is capable to admit vessels of burden, yet none frequent it but in the summer season; and then but very seldom, and when freighted to the place; For the entrance is narrow between two ridges of rocks, the bottom rough, and thereby difficult and dangerous.

*Division and Rent of Lands, &c.*—The whole of the lands of Newark are inclosed with hedge and ditch, except a small part by stone fences. There is no real farmer, who makes farming his sole business, but one, and his farm is of no great extent. The remainder is let off in small parcels to the inhabitants of the town. These take it not so much for the profit arising from farming, as to enable them to keep their horses, which, by their being employed in driving of coal, fish, and otherwise, thereby procure their own support, and enable them to pay the rent. Likewise, a good number of cows are kept, for the sale of milk to the other inhabitants. The lands of Newark contain about 266 acres, and they are generally let from L. 2, 2 s. up to L. 3 the acre. The valued rent of this part of the parish is L. 1207, 13 s. 4 d. Scots; but the real rent I cannot ascertain. For, besides the rent of land, there are the feus in the town, tithes upon the fishing, &c. There are already large two thirds of the lands of Abercrombie inclosed, and the people are at present engaged in that work, decorating the inclosures with clumps of trees here and there. The whole is done with hedge and ditch, for there is no freestone in the grounds, but what lies very deep. The farmers are sufficiently



ciently convinced of the advantage of inclosing, which they show, by giving higher rents for inclosed than uninclosed grounds. The whole of the lands of Abercrombie are divided into farms, containing from 40 to 60, 80, and 117 acres, and but a trifle in small parcels. The rent varies, some being 15 s. L. 1, L. 1, 10 s. L. 1, 15 s. and some up to L. 2 the acre. The whole acres are 600, and upwards. The valued rent is L. 1486 Scots, but the real rent I cannot determine. The whole number of acres, therefore, in the parish is about 866, and the valued rent L. 2693: 13: 4 Scots. There is a mill in the lands of Abercrombie, to which all the tenants are thirled, for such grains as are mealed for the use of their families, and pay multure.

*Agriculture, &c.*—About 15 years ago, the only plough used here was the old Scots plough, of a very heavy and clumsy construction. It was drawn sometimes by 2 oxen, and 2 horses; and sometimes by 4 oxen and 1 horse. But what is now generally used is the small English plough with iron mould-board; and the Scots plough, of a shorter and lighter construction than formerly; and a plough, composed of partly English and partly Scots, having an iron mould-board and head. The English plough makes the neatest work, but does not answer in stony ground; whereas the Scots answers all grounds. All these ploughs are now commonly drawn by 2 strong horses; except when breaking up stiff land from grass that has been down for some years, then 3 or 4 horses are used. One man both holds the plough, and manages the horses by a pair of long reins, except when more than 2 horses are used. The roller is frequently used here, as the ground is friable, in the spring upon the wheat crop, to shut up the surface, and thereby to prevent the fatal effect of the frost at that season; and



and upon the sown barley grounds to preserve the moisture from the violent exhalation. All curved and broad ridges are now done away, and the ridges are made straight and narrow; the surface is by far more neatly dressed than formerly, and gives pleasure to the beholder. It is only within these few years, that wheat or barley were sown in the parish to any extent; but now a considerable quantity of both. The wheat is generally sown after potatoes, fallow, and beans or pease, and the time of sowing, from the middle of September even till the end of November; but the greater portion in October. Beans, pease, and oats, from the beginning of March to the middle of April. The greatest part of the beans are in drills, which are dressed with the hand-hoe, and furrowed up with a light plough, constructed for that purpose, with a mould-board on both sides, in summer. There used to be a great quantity of flax-seed sown by the inhabitants, who hired the ground from the tenants. But of late, the price of the seed and rent of land have risen to so great a height, that but a small quantity is now sown in comparison of what used to be, and the return not compensating their expense. The time of sowing is from the middle of March to the end of April. Potatoes the whole of April; and bear and barley from the beginning to the end of May, among the latter, grass-seeds are sown, and rolled down. Turnips, of which there are now large fields, are sown from the middle of June to the middle of July. The farmers use turnip to fatten cattle with for sale, and which are bought in; for having little or no natural pasture, they raise few or none. To the same purpose their crops of hay are applied, and by this means increase the *fulzie* for their grounds. The harvest generally begins about the last week of August and 1st of September, and by the first and second week of October the crop is wholly got into the barn-yards. Of wheat,  
barley,



barley, bear and sometimes of beans, a greater quantity is raised in this parish than what is necessary for the support of the inhabitants. These are generally sold to the bakers and brewers in the towns upon the coast side, or to persons residing there, who are commissioned by such, in Edinburgh, Leith, and other places, to buy up for them. The fatted cattle are commonly bought by the butchers from Edinburgh, Perth, &c. For Fife of a long time past has been famous for fatted cattle. Since the price of land has increased, the farmers sow little more oats than to serve their own consumpt; it being a low priced grain, and esteemed a scourging crop to the land. The difference between the prices of grain in the market at Edinburgh and this place, being somewhat considerable, together with the ease of water-carriage in transporting it, occasions the demand upon this quarter.

*Population.*—The return made to Dr Webster in the 1775 of the population of the parish of St Monance was 780 souls; the number in 1790 turned out to be 832, which is an increase only of 52 since that period. But as there is no evidence in the registers of any particular enumeration being taken of the inhabitants at that time, there is ground to suspect that it has been either superficially taken or exaggerated, for the following reasons: *1st*, Because houses in the town of St Monance have of late increased in number above what they then were, and all are possessed. *2d*, Since that period, the coal-work has been set a-going, about which several houses have been raised, and the salt-works built, in which are a number of houses for salters, &c. Both of which have brought a number of persons, and their families, into the parish, from other parts of the country. *Lastly*, The inhabitants of Abercrombie, and country parts of the parish, are much the same they were at that period. From  
all



all which, there is reason to suspect that the enumeration then made was not just; and that had it been so, the increase now, above what the number then was, must have been much greater. The births, marriages, and deaths, as entered in the parish-register for 7 years, are as follow:

| Years.                | Births. | Marriages. | Burials. |
|-----------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| From Oct. 2. 1783*    |         |            |          |
| to do. 1784,          | 36      | 7          | 25       |
| Do. 1784 to do 1785,  | 34      | 12         | 30       |
| Do. 1785 to do. 1786, | 41      | 3          | 17       |
| Do. 1786 to do. 1787, | 26      | 6          | 23       |
| Do. 1787 to do. 1788, | 26      | 7          | 17       |
| Do. 1788 to do. 1789, | 30      | 11         | 15       |
| Do. 1789 to do. 1790, | 34      | 6          | 11       |
|                       | <hr/>   | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |
| Totals,               | 227     | 52         | 158      |
|                       | <hr/>   | <hr/>      | <hr/>    |
| Average nearly,       | 32      | 7          | 19       |

The great increase of deaths in 1783, 1784, and 1786, was owing to the small-pox getting into the town of St Monance in the height of summer, when the air is tainted by the refuse of the fishing, (as before observed,) which, when it happened, never failed to sweep off a great number of children. It is to be observed, that the great excess of births beyond the deaths, in the above space of 7 years, is owing to many of the present inhabitants continuing still to bury in the parishes from whence they came, and the custom of paying the tax upon deaths in the place where the dead are interred. The whole parish belongs to two proprietors;

\* The reason why the calculation begins at the 2d of October, is, because the tax upon births, &c. did take place then, and the register commenced.



proprietors, Sir Robert Anstruther, Baronet, proprietor of Abercrombie, and Sir John Anstruther, Baronet, of the lands of Newark; but none of them reside in the parish. In the lands of Abercrombie, all the inhabitants are farmers, and cottagers employed by them; except in the village of Abercrombie, there are 1 wright, 1 smith, and 3 weavers.—It was observed before, that the lands of Newark were let in small parcels to persons who resided in the town of St Monance. Besides these, in that place, there are 4 bakers, 3 brewers, 2 smiths, 4 merchants, 1 wright, and 1 boat-builder; 2 masons, 2 sieve-makers, 2 flax-dressers, 1 shoemaker, 5 tailors, 6 weavers, and 1 gardener. The rest of the inhabitants are composed of fishers and sailors, land-labourers and day labourers, and such as are employed about the coal and salt works. And it merits observation, that there are no less than 12 spirit and ale houses, the unhappy effects of the keepers of which, by their craft to decoy, are with regret seen upon both the health and morals of the young and inconsiderate.

*Church, Stipend, &c.*—What is at present used for the church of the parish is part of an old convent, on the west of the town of St Monance; which is situated upon a rock, advancing into the frith of Forth. It had been a very stately and beautiful Gothic pile of hewn stone, in the form of a cross, with a square steeple in the centre\*. The walls of the south and north branches are still standing, but want

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the

\* This chapel is recorded to have been a priory of the Black-friars. It was founded by King David II. of Scotland, in the 40th year of his reign, and was served by a hermit. By his charter, dated “at Edinburgh,” he grants thereto, the lands of Easter-birney in Fife, and some lands in the sheriffdom of Edinburgh. It was given by King James III. to the Black-friars. To it was annexed the convent founded by the Macduffs Earls of Fife, at the foot of the Castlehill of Cupar of Fife. Afterward,



the roof; of the west branch no vestige remains, and the east branch, with the steeple, serves at present for the place of public worship. This part of the building has a very beautiful vaulted roof, with veins jutting out from the side-walls, and meeting in the centre of the roof, where it is decorated with roses, and other ornaments. Over the vault, there is a slate roof, to preserve it from the weather. The burden of upholding this fabric, was laid by the proprietor of the lands of Newark upon the feuars of St Monance, when he let off the ground on which the town stands, having the annexation in view. But the building seems to have been in a manner totally neglected by them. In the 1772, it was in such a ruinous state, that the incumbent raised a process for reparation before the presbytery, and obtained a decree for that end against the heritors. But the feuars were reluctant, pretending they were not obliged to uphold it. This brought on a process between the heritors and them, before the Lords of Session, in which they were cast, and found liable to uphold the fabric. During the process, it received a partial reparation, but nothing equal to what was granted by presbytery; and nothing more has yet been done, either by the heritors, to enforce the decree of the Lords upon the feuars, or by them, to testify their compliance with it; and if they continue long so to do, this venerable pile must sink into ruins. What a pity is it, that such a beautiful monument of antiquity, and which perhaps has not its fellow in Scotland, should be suffered to go to desolation! The King is patron of the parish. The manse was built in the last century, has undergone several expensive reparations, but is at present in bad condition.

terwards, both were annexed by King James V. to the convent of St Andrew's, at the west port of the street called the North-gate, founded by William Wishart, bishop of that city.—History of religious Houses in Scotland, by a presbyter under Bishop Ross of Edinburgh.



dition. There is no school-house in the parish, but the heritors allow the interest of the money appointed by law, for building a school and house, to the master, to hire one. The stipend consists of 96 bolls, half bear and half oats, Linlithgow measure, L. 11 : 2 : 2 $\frac{8}{12}$  in money, and L. 3, 6s. 8d. in lieu of vicarage-tithes. But of this last, the present incumbent has never realised more than L. 2 : 19 : 2 $\frac{2}{4}$ , though he has often applied to the heritors concerning it. The amount of the whole, (taking the victual at the common conversion,) is L. 64 : 1 : 5 $\frac{1}{4}$  Sterling, exclusive of the glebe, and which, including arable and grass grounds, and what the manse and offices employ, is 8 acres 2 falls.

*State of the Poor, &c.*—The funds for the poor, are the weekly collections at the church door. These of late have greatly diminished, owing to the increase of the different sects of Seceders in this part of the county, the Relief, Burghers, and Antiburghers, &c. The teachers and managers of each of which societies, artfully draw off the ignorant and unwary from the Established Church, by this means to make up a salary for their teachers; and pride themselves to have it not only equal to, but above that of the ministers of the church. They give no charity to their poor; but the whole of what is collected at the door of their meeting-houses, and what arises from the rent of seats is applied to this purpose. When any of their society are unfit for labour, by sickness or old age, and reduced in circumstances, being unable to pay the heavy assessments they lay upon them, and standing in need of charity; finding they can reap no more pecuniary benefit from them, they send them to the church-session for relief. Thus their practice has laid the church-sessions under the disagreeable necessity of acquainting them, that upon their leaving the church, they will be deprived of the benefit of that fund.  
And



And did they not take this method, the whole would be consumed upon such as contribute nothing to it \* Besides the above, there are others, such as seamen, and of other professions, who enter into societies, and pay into what they call their box, and publicly collect from others, and though they attend the church, give nothing to the poor. Thus the public fund is much injured, and the whole collection which comes from a few persons, is but small ; which, with the rent of four acres of land, and two houses, cannot be calculated at more than about L. 9 a-year. There are now upon the poors list three persons and two orphans. None are allowed to beg publicly. The parish, however, is much infested with beggars from towns at a distance.

\* It may be proper to observe, that the above sectaries are always ready to break the public peace. A flagrant instance of which they lately gave in this corner. By forming societies, which consisted, if not wholly, yet mostly of persons of these sects, for circulating seditious pamphlets, and disseminating disaffection to King and Government, by these meetings, and private conversations,

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—In the 1782, the harvest was very late, owing to the rains through the summer, and heavy falls of snow and intense frosts in the end of September, and the whole of October. This did not only greatly injure the crop, but made the harvest uncommonly late in this parish. And as this weather was similar over all Scotland, the country was threatened with a general scarcity. The meal quickly rose to 1 s. 3 d. the peck, which rendered it very distressing to the poor ; the industrious labourer and artificer, having a family of children, being above what they could procure by their labour. The session, moved with compassion, and fearing the fatal effects of the scarcity, came to a resolution to lend their aid for preserving the lives of the inhabitants. For this purpose, as oats or meal were very difficult to be obtained, they thought it proper to have recourse to Sir Robert Anstruther, Bart. for his farm-oats to be converted into meal, and to be applied to the support of the parish ; and agreed to give him for every boll of meal the price current, and to give it 3 d. the peck to the inhabitants below the market price. Their request he was so good and humane as to grant. Having thus secured meal, the session, to prevent impositions, made a survey of the pa-



nish, to find out the most necessitous families, without distinction of sects or parties. They appointed two days in the week for distribution, Tuesday and Friday; when each person, upon receiving a ticket, and giving the same to the person appointed to distribute the meal, were to receive the quantity therein specified, at 3 d. the peck below the market price. By this means, they not only had it at this easy rate, but were sure of having it. For, at that time, meal often could not be procured for money. This the session continued to do, from the 1st of February to the end of May 1783, when the shipping, in the course of Providence, arrived more early than usual from the Baltic, with a supply for the relief of the country. By this method the session became the happy instruments of supporting no less than 40 families, besides individuals, and preserving the lives of their fellow parishioners from the general calamity.

By the Rev. Mr. Alexander Milne

Name and Extent.

**T**his is the great history of men and things, but not of the memory of those circumstances which have given rise to the name by which this parish is now distinguished, and therefore, as in most cases of the kind, some must supply the place of the original. In some ancient records of the parish, the name is spelled *Alexander*, which appears to be a small variation of the word *Alva*, and it is probable that the *Alva* was dedicated to the Mother of our Lord, or to some person of the family who endowed it during that name. But on this day, it is well commonly written *Alexander*, by which some are disposed to think that the church, which was the parish has its designation, was originally dedicated to St. Alexander. In support of this opinion, the following fact is

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## PARISH OF KILMAURS,

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr ALEXANDER MILLAR.*

*Name and Extent.*

**T**IME, the great destroyer of men and things, has blotted out the memory of those circumstances which first gave rise to the name by which this parish is now distinguished; and, therefore, as in most cases of the kind, conjecture alone must supply the place of certain knowledge. In some ancient records of session, the name is spelled *Kilmares*, which appears to be a small variation of the word *Marie*, and if so, it is probable that the *Kil* was dedicated to the Mother of our Lord, or to some person of the family who endowed it, bearing that name. But at this day, it is most commonly written *Kilmaurs*, by which some are disposed to think that the church, from which the parish has its designation, was originally dedicated to a St Maurs. In support of this derivation, the subjoined fact has



has some strength \*. The length of this parish from E. to W. is 6, and the greatest breadth from N. to S. 3 miles.

*Rivulets, &c.*—A rivulet, which rises in Fenwick, and running the whole length of the parish from E. to W. divides it nearly into two equal parts. This rivulet has several names given to it, taken from the most remarkable places through which it passes. Here it is known by the name of Kilmaurs water. A little lower it is called Carmel, which it retains, till it loses itself in the Irvine. In its course, two mills belonging to the parish are supplied, but in the drought of summer, and frost of winter, it becomes almost dry; a circumstance which deprives this part of the country of the advantages from machinery, applied to the spinning of cotton by water. The inhabitants of Kilmaurs town might find in it a sufficient quantity to answer the purposes of bleaching thread, and it is surprising, that some of them have not turned their attention to this article. It produces some trout and eel. The Irvine

\* A small figure of a man, cut on one side of a stone cube, and placed in a notch made in a wall of the church, was found by the masons employed in making repairs, and which, in contempt of Popery, perhaps had been plastered up at the introduction of Episcopacy. This figure is in a fitting posture, dressed in a robe or cassock, which is tucked up before as far as the knees, leaving the legs and feet naked. The hands appear from under the folds of the robe, holding something like a mace, which is carried as high as the head, resting upon the right breast and shoulder. The head is covered with a cap or hood, resembling a coronet, having 2 crescents in front. The beard is long, and falls in ringlets on the breast. When the practices of superstition and idolatry are considered, into which former ages had fallen, we are led to conclude that this can be nothing else but the image of the person, in honour of whom the church and parish have their name. As power and influence command adulation, so there is reason to believe that this Saint had been eminent, when such a tribute of homage was paid to him. It is said that the order was Cistercian; an order which became so powerful, that they governed almost all Europe, both in spirituals and temporals.



on the S. and S. W. glides along the skirts of this parish for nearly two miles. Salmon, trout, and eel, are found in it, but none of them remarkable either for quantity or quality. There might be a cotton mill erected at Miln-ton in our bounds, where there is at present an excellent corn and barley mill; sufficient water for both may at all times be here found. On the N. and N. W. a burn separates us from Dreghorn\*.

*Surface, &c.*—The surface consists of large flat fields, with many gentle risings and declivities interspersed. The summits of these are covered with trees, planted in circles, which, with others of the same kind, spread all over Cunninghame, give a beautiful appearance to the whole of this country, as well as profit to the owners, by affording timber for houses. The prospect from these summits, which are in every farm, is extensive and delightful; for many miles all round, the whole country appears as one well cultivated garden. Towns, villages, and gentlemen's houses, meet the eye on every quarter. The hills of Arran, and the frith of Clyde, terminate our view on the W. the hills of Kilbirny on the N. the high grounds of Fenwick and Galston on the E. and S. E. and some hills on the borders of Dumfries-shire and Galloway, make

\* Its name is Gawreer, and may be thus derived. *Gaw* is that slit or opening made by a plough or spade in the side of a pond, loch, or stagnated water, by which it is drained off; *reer* may be a corruption of *ruigh* or *righ*, which, in Gaelic, signifies "to run or move quickly." In the sense given of these words, they can be applied, with propriety, as descriptive of the peculiarities which distinguish this stream. It is drawn from a loch in the parish of Stewarton, by a *gaw*, in which it runs at some distance, and then seeks a course for itself. *Gawreer*, or rather *Gawrigh*, expresses the idea of a water-course, not made by the natural exertions of that element, but by the accidental application of it to some purposes of art.



make our horizon to the S. About 20 or 30 years ago, there was no such thing to be seen as trees or hedges in this parish; all was naked and open; every farm-house, old, paltry, inconvenient, and unpleasantly situated; not a single made road, either to kirk or market. Now, all is completely inclosed, and subdivided by ditches and thorn hedges. New houses, on a regular convenient plan, and pleasantly situated, every where gladden the eye, and suggest the ideas of activity, neatness and wealth, of which every liberal minded man wishes to be possessed, and delights to see in the possession of others.

*Roads.*—An easy communication is now opened up to all the market towns, whether far or near. From Kilmaurs town, as a centre, the following lines of road go out; S. to Kilmarnock, N. N. W. by Cunninghamehead and Perce-ton to Irvine, E. to Fenwick, where it joins the Glasgow road, W. by Bushby and Fairlie Bridge to Ayr. The road from Kilmarnock to Irvine runs across this last line at Cross-house, and the road between Kilmarnock and Stewarton cuts the east line at Shaw-bridge, half a mile from Kilmaurs. These roads so divide and quarter this parish, that no farmer is distant from one or other of them more than the fourth of a mile, several not so much. The expense of making and repairing roads here is defrayed by toll-duties, together with a certain yearly sum levied from the tenants, according to the proportion of valued rent which they hold, and from each householder, in terms of the statute; or money is borrowed from individuals, who have it to spare, upon the security of one or more trustees, whose interest is most promoted by the roads in this or the other direction, and the toll duties, with the other assessments already mentioned, are applied to the payment of the interest, and the gradual extinction of the



original debt. Sensible that no progress in agricultural improvements can be made, without the advantages of good and convenient roads, the gentlemen in every district of this county have paid an unwearied and successful attention to this object. What an undertaking must it have been to travel but a few miles in those days, when no road was any where to be seen, and where the soil, as in a great many parts of this parish, is a deep clay, though in many other parts it is a rich loam, and every inch arable!

*Climate, &c.*—The operations of the husbandman are now incomparably more easy, that good roads are brought to their doors: But still they have some inconveniences to struggle with, which cannot be remedied. They are frequently interrupted by inconstancy of weather, which obliges them to plough less, or more untimously, and to reap with more risk than they could wish. It is probably owing to our being situated in the vicinity of the Atlantic, and the high hills of Arran, that we have much rain, and many severe blasts. To the same cause may be ascribed the absence of frost and snow, or the mildness of the one, and the short continuance of the other on the ground. These N. W. and S. W. blasts, however troublesome in many respects, serve to preserve us from fogs, which seldom or never appear in our atmosphere. The inhabitants are generally healthy; not remarkable for longevity, though some reach from 70 to 80. One or two are now at 90. Several instances of scrofula and consumption have occurred, but not sufficient to mark these as the most prevalent diseases. Rheumatism is the complaint of many, especially of those who are on the decline of life. Sudden colds attack the young and middle aged. Fevers sometimes make their appearance, and seldom depart without death in their train; but these are generally brought



brought into the parish by servants from great towns, whose parents or relations reside here. Many epidemical diseases might be warded off from a whole country, if liberal contributions were made for building and maintaining infirmaries, in which the sick and diseased among the poor would find a comfortable retreat, and the necessary advantages of medical aid. Donations for this purpose are the very essence of charity, which assimilates men to the Supreme Being, whose providential care extends to all his creatures \*.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers were then 1094. At present they amount to 1147. The inhabitants may be classed as residing in the country part of the parish, and in the town of Kilmaurs. Of men, women and children in the country, excepting farmers, the number is 384, of these 174 are males, 210 are females, all which fall under the following denominations.

|               |   |    |                         |   |   |
|---------------|---|----|-------------------------|---|---|
| Day-labourers | - | 27 | Smiths,                 | - | 3 |
| Millers,      | - | 3  | Tanner,                 | - | 1 |
| Weavers,      | - | 15 | A gentleman's gardener, | - | 1 |
| Masons,       | - | 8  | Colliers,               | - | 3 |
| Wrights,      | - | 4  | Waulk-millers,          | - | 2 |
| Men           |   |    |                         |   |   |

\* Inoculation for the small-pox hath not yet become general, owing to the prevalence of a religious persuasion, that the Divine Government, without any care on the part of man, will accomplish whatever is best for him. So deeply are the tenets of this kind impressed, that all attempts to show the necessity of using those means by which the Providence of God operates, both in temporal and spiritual concerns, are houted and despised. Much have the Teachers of Religion to answer for, who establish faith upon the ruins of practice. The number of deaths, and the diseases which prove mortal, cannot be ascertained, no register of them having been kept. Births are also for the same reason unknown.



|                                                                    |                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Men servants residing in<br>their masters houses, 28               | mother or sisters live<br>with them, - 3                            |
| Do. out of masters houses<br>having families, - 3                  | Widow living with<br>friends or children, 1                         |
| One who lives in his ma-<br>ster's house, but family<br>out, - - 1 | Ditto in houses of their<br>own, having children, 7                 |
| Gentleman's servant mar-<br>ried, - - 1                            | Women never married,<br>living with friends or<br>by themselves, 17 |
| Ditto servants unmar-<br>ried, - - 2                               | House-keepers, - 2                                                  |
| Chaise-driver, - 1                                                 | Antiburgher minister,<br>married, - - 1                             |
| Female-servants, - 46                                              | Antiburgher student, 1                                              |
| Gentlemen married, 2                                               | Established minister, 1                                             |
| Ditto unmarried, whose                                             | Kirk-officer, - 1                                                   |

## Husbands between

|                 |
|-----------------|
| 20 and 30, - 8  |
| 30 and 40, - 11 |
| 40 and 50, - 13 |
| 50 and 60, - 18 |
| 60 and 70, - 9  |
| 70 and 80, - 1  |
| 80 and 90, - 1  |
| —               |
| 61              |

## Wives between

|                 |
|-----------------|
| 20 and 30, - 12 |
| 30 and 40, - 20 |
| 40 and 50, - 14 |
| 50 and 60, - 8  |
| 60 and 70, - 4  |
| 70 and 80, - 2  |
| 80 and 90, - 1  |
| —               |
| 61              |

## Male children between

|                 |
|-----------------|
| 1 and 5, - 24   |
| 5 and 10, - 17  |
| 10 and 15, - 20 |
| —               |
| 61              |

## Female children between

|                 |
|-----------------|
| 1 and 5, - 24   |
| 5 and 10, - 22  |
| 10 and 15, - 14 |
| —               |
| 60              |

Males



| Males unmarried between |   |    | Females unmarried between |   |    |
|-------------------------|---|----|---------------------------|---|----|
| 15 and 20,              | - | 13 | 15 and 20,                | - | 24 |
| 20 and 30,              | - | 22 | 20 and 30,                | - | 35 |
| 30 and 40,              | - | 9  | 30 and 40,                | - | 13 |
| 40 and 50,              | - | 3  | 40 and 50,                | - | 3  |
| 50 and 60,              | - | 2  | 50 and 60,                | - | 7  |
| 60 and 70,              | - | 2  | 60 and 70,                | - | 7  |
| 70 and 80,              | - | 1  | 70 and 80,                | - | 0  |
| —                       |   |    | —                         |   |    |
| 52                      |   |    | 89                        |   |    |

No man who can work is at any loss to provide comfortably for himself and family, because the price of labour is now a great deal more than it was some years ago, is increased since last year, and increasing still, while that of meal, the chief article of living, is nearly, at an average, the same it was 20 or 30 years ago\*.

Besides

\* The encouragement given to men, women, and children, by manufacturers, hath drawn so many people from the country to them, that the few remaining avail themselves of the scarcity of hands, for obtaining an augmentation of wages. A labourer, in summer, earns a-day, according to his ability for work, his known diligence and dispatch in working, from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 4 d. and 1 s. 6 d.; from the 12th of November to the 12th of February, 1 s. or 1 s. 2 d.; in autumn, those who are engaged for the whole harvest, whether men or women, receive from L. 1, 5 s. to L. 1, 10 s. with their victuals; those hired by the day, during that season, 1 s. 6 d.; of late more has been given, and their diet also furnished. Hay-cutters, if paid by the day, receive from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; if by the acre, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d. sometimes 2 s. 6 d. according to the ease or difficulty which evidently attends the work to be performed. The wages of a carpenter, the day, are 1 s. 6 d.; of a mason, 1 s. 8 d.; both of late 2 s. Of a tailor, 1 s.; but a deduction of 4 d. is always made from the above, when the employer furnishes provisions. Many kinds of work are contracted for by the piece, and care is taken by the worker, that no engagement of this sort shall afford less to him, upon the whole, than some, if not the highest, of the above mentioned wages, the day. Every tradesman estimates his work, one day with another, at 1 s. 6 d. and 2 s.

Men



Besides the above mentioned number of inhabitants residing in the country district of Kilmaurs, there is another class which deserves particular notice, and which for this purpose is kept by itself. This class comprehends none but actual farmers, their wives and children. The number of whom taken together is 249, of these 135 are males, 114 are females; and in the following table their different and corresponding ages may be seen.

## Husbands between

## Wives between

|            |   |    |            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|------------|---|----|
| 20 and 30, | - | 0  | 20 and 30, | - | 10 |
| 30 and 40, | - | 11 | 30 and 40, | - | 10 |
| 40 and 50, | - | 8  | 40 and 50, | - | 14 |
| 50 and 60, | - | 14 | 50 and 60, | - | 9  |
| 60 and 70, | - | 9  | 70 and 80, | - | 1  |
| 70 and 80, | - | 2  | 80 and 90, | - | 0  |
|            |   | —  |            |   | —  |
|            |   | 44 |            |   | 44 |

## Male children between

## Female children between

|            |   |    |            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|------------|---|----|
| 1 and 5,   | - | 18 | 1 and 5,   | - | 15 |
| 5 and 10,  | - | 20 | 5 and 10,  | - | 16 |
| 10 and 15, | - | 21 | 10 and 15, | - | 11 |
|            |   | —  |            |   | —  |
|            |   | 59 |            |   | 42 |

Males

Men servants are hired for a half year at from L. 4 to L. 4, 10 s.; women, for the same time, at L. 1, 15 s. some at L. 2. There are only 3 or 4 men servants who do not live in their masters families, and who are allowed L. 6 or L. 7 in money, 6½ bolls of oat-meal, a cow's grass and fodder, a house and yard, a small piece of ground for potatoes and flax, which altogether may be estimated at L. 17 or L. 18 yearly.



Males unmarried, and children of those married, between

Females unmarried between

|               |                                                 |              |    |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|----|
| 15 and 20,—11 | N. B. Three or four of this class are widowers. | 15 and 20, - | 15 |
| 20 and 30,—11 |                                                 | 20 and 30, - | 9  |
| 30 and 40,—2  |                                                 | 30 and 40, - | 3  |
| 40 and 50,—2  |                                                 | 60 and 70, - | 1  |
| 50 and 60,—1  |                                                 |              | —  |
| 60 and 70,—4  |                                                 |              | 28 |
| 70 and 80,—1  |                                                 |              |    |
| —             |                                                 |              |    |
| 32            |                                                 |              |    |

These subsist by the immediate produce of the land, and occupy farms from 15 to 50, and from 50 to 150 acres. There are but a very few of the first, several of them having been united. This, however, has had little effect upon the population, many of the old houses being still occupied by cottagers.

*Agriculture.*—On the farms black cattle and some horses are reared; of the former, there are a considerable number, for the farmers generally breed their own flock, and a good many for the market besides, which, when sold, as milk cows at a proper age, commonly bring from L. 6 to L. 9. With respect to the latter, it has been the practice here to buy young horses at the age of 4 or 5, to use them for a year or two, and then to sell before they begin to fall off, by which method it is generally contrived to have the work of the horse for the expense of his maintenance, and even a little profit between buying and selling; but of late this practice is almost laid aside, and that of breeding come in its place. Such horses as are reared in the parish, are of an excellent kind, particularly fit for the draught, and when brought to market, have sold for upwards of L. 30 Sterling.

The



The ordinary and most productive crops are oats, a little barley or bear, and but a little of these is cultivated, being found not to answer the soil and climate. Early oats are much in use, and thrive well where the land is rich. Beans and pease are sown in small quantities, and wheat in a still smaller proportion. Potatoes and flax are raised only for private use, and turnips never sown as a crop. The return of oats is from 5 to 10 bolls of 8 Winchester bushels the acre, which, for the most part, renders in meal about 18 or 19 pecks from the boll, each peck weighing 8 lb. Of bear the produce is from 4 to 8 bolls the acre; barley rather less. Besides serving the inhabitants, a very considerable quantity of oats and oat-meal is carried to the adjacent towns, and exported to Glasgow and Paisley, where the oats are sold for 19 s. or 20 s. the boll, oat-meal at 17 s. 4 d. 17 s. 5 d. each boll weighing 8 stone, barley at L. 1, 6 s. bear at L. 1, 4 s. beans and pease at 4 s. the bushel\*.

Farmers in times that are now past were allowed to choose for themselves what kind and what portion of land they would lay under some of these crops; for it was only some that they could raise, during which time they could not produce plenty, consequently paid a very small rent. They neither knew the full force of lime, nor had it in their power, for want of roads, to apply it. In the early dawning of agricultural knowledge, they were taught to confine themselves to croft and outfield; the former was ploughed 3 and rested one year; and when laid down for this

\* The seed time for oats commences the 1st of April, and ends in the beginning of May; potatoes are planted about the same time; beans and pease are sown rather earlier; barley, from the 1st of May to the 1st of June; spring wheat in March, and that for winter in September or October, but of these we have very little. The time of reaping is from the 1st of September to the middle of October.



this short rest, it got a little dressing, with what dung could be spared from garden and potatoes. The outfield lay in grass so many years, and was ploughed so many as was agreed upon, without any manure whatever, during which time there were bad crops, and as bad pasture; therefore poor tenants, and small ill paid rents. When such leases came to an end, and when the land was completely inclosed, the distinction of outfield and infield was taken away, and a method of farming, very simple, yet well adapted to the nature of the soil, was introduced, particularly in the management of Lord Eglinton's estate. The great object was to lift the land for tillage, and to lay it down again in good heart. Rest and lime were sufficient for the first, and a restriction in ploughing, with the application of dung to the last or two last crops in that restriction for the latter. To promote these ends effectually 3 divisions were made of each farm, 1 of which was limed at the proprietor's expense with the quantity of 100 or 150 bolls the acre, which is burnt by the farmers themselves, and spread upon the field to be ploughed, sometimes 12 months, and sometimes only 2 before tilling. This one division and no more is allowed at a time to be in tillage. The other 2 remain under grass. After ploughing the one division mentioned for 3 years successively, it was committed to rest on the last of these, with grass-seeds sown among those for the 3d crop. Then another division, limed at the tenant's expense, was broken up, and so in rotation. The tenant is always permitted to cut the grass for the 1st year of that division which was last laid down. This method is still in practice; but where the farm is large, another mode has been adopted; 4 divisions are preferred to 3; and each division is ploughed 3 years, then rests 9; or 2 grain crops are taken from it, and then is turned into pasture, in which state



it continues for 6 years \*.—The rent a-acre has been as low as 4s. or 5s. Then the tenants were poorer than now, when it, upon an average, is so high as L. 1, 2s. or L. 1, 3s. Where leases have been granted within these 5 years past, the rent is from L. 1, 10s. to L. 1, 12s. In a particular farm 74 acres of pasture land was let about a month ago, for 2 years after Whitsunday 1794, at L. 124 Sterling, and a number of acres in the same farm, for ploughing, 3 years, at L. 5 and L. 5, 10s. the acre; nor is there reason for complaints, for that land yielded, on each acre, 10 or 12 bolls of corn; yet this very land, between 20 and 30 years ago, was rented so low as 4s. or 5s. an acre, and after all the tenant went a bankrupt out of it. Little reason, then, have our farmers to upbraid those gentlemen who have raised their rents, seeing they have also taught them how to acquire even more than these rents. There have been, and there will always be some men in society, so stupid as not to be sensible of their own interest, or so wicked as not to be grateful when it is promoted; but the good and wise will be open to conviction, ready to submit to instruction, and to be governed by the judgment of others, whose

3

knowledge

\* Some attribute the introduction of this last mode to Mr Fairlie of Fairlie, in the management of his own and the Earl of Eglinton's estates. Some say the alteration originated from Mr Snodgrass of Cuninghamehead; others affirm, that Mr Ralston, factor for Lord Eglinton, is the author of it, and that he first practised it in the culture of a large farm which he possesses. Any, nay all of these gentlemen, are well qualified for making useful and important discoveries in the province of agriculture. Whoever of them has the merit of this, it is abundantly evident, that the land by it must be still preserved in strength and vigour, especially when this circumstance is considered, that the tenants are strictly prohibited from laying dung upon ley, and bound to apply it only to the division immediately in tillage. In every tack granted by the leases of Lord Eglinton's lands, the precise method of husbandry is described, and a strict regard to it secured by an high penalty in case of forfeiture, which in every instance has been demanded, and however reluctantly, paid.



knowledge is better cultivated, and whose observation is more accurate and extensive than their own ; of these last it is hoped there are not a few in the parish of Kilmaurs. Industry in any undertaking is, for the most part, abundantly rewarded : " The hand of the diligent maketh rich ;" and industry, recommended by those whose rank sets them above the common level of life, cannot fail of gaining attention, which is the first step towards a conformity of action. Such examples are in the eye of the farmers of Kilmaurs. Several gentlemen occupy their own estates, or at least in part, on which they practise the most approved methods of husbandry, and add to them the discoveries of their own experiments\*. The contents of the parish in acres, and the amount

\* Captain Cuninghame of Thornton, who, though still a young man, and when still much younger, was bred up to a military life, in which, the less that is thought of *mother earth* the better, has, in the course of a few years, by unwearied application, attained a very uncommon degree of knowledge, both in the theory and practice of agriculture, as is evident from the present state of his lands, compared with that in which he found them, and the ease and affluence of his present circumstances, which, in a great measure, is owing to his own careful management. Such an example of industry followed by success, affords an excellent lesson, and it would be injustice to the public to withhold it.—Mr John Morrice, who having followed a seafaring life, in which, by knowing when to lay hold of the opportunities that Providence puts in every man's power one time or other, of bettering his condition, made an handsome fortune, with which he retired, and purchased the estate of Craig in this parish. His first operation there was that of repairing the mansion-house and offices ; but before these were finished, the house, either by accident or design, was set on fire and consumed. Report says, that a servant, in absence of his master, having found access to the cellar, or place where the liquors were kept, embezzled them so much, that becoming afraid of a detection at his master's return, took this horrid method of concealing his crime. Be this true or false, the very surmise should make all servants beware of indulging any one evil, however trivial it may appear ; because one wicked deed leads on to another, till at last all sense of character is lost, and life itself falls in the issue a victim to depraved appetites. On the other



amount of real rent, are secrets which the public, it is thought, should not pry into. Be it so, *ne futor ultra crepidam*; but there can be no harm, surely, in figuring it away. If then it be true, that the real rent comes nearly in

ther hand, too much caution cannot be used in keeping temptation at a distance from that class of people whose minds are seldom, at the proper age, tutored to the love of virtue. Mr Morrice, though he no doubt suffered a great loss in this event, did immediately begin the building of another house, the plan and situation of which he entirely made new; but had not the pleasure of seeing it fully completed, before death removed him to a better habitation. The character which he left behind him, is that of an honest, sensible and benevolent man. Mr Robert Morrice, his only brother, succeeded to the whole of his landed estate, and the greatest part of his money. This gentleman, for several years, was engaged in the affairs of trade and commerce at Glasgow; from which, with an excellent character, he hath drawn considerable gains; these added to his inheritance, are more than sufficient for all the purposes of genteel living, which he enjoys in ease and elegance, to the great pleasure of all who know him, being endeared to them by his amiable manners, integrity, candour, humanity, benevolence, and the warmest friendship. His early engagements in business estranged him to the affairs of the country; but his habits of application, and aptness to learn, have qualified him for directing the cultivation of his own estate, and for contributing his example to the benefit of those who need to be guided by the good conduct of them, whose advantages of education and improvement are such as do not fall to the lot of the many. He has finished and fitted up in an elegant manner the house which his brother had begun, dressed the land about it in good taste, made a pleasant approach, several gravel walks, with other ornaments, added some conveniencies to the offices, and drained some fields that were spouty and sour. The house of Craig is delightfully situated on the banks of the Irvine, which, after falling in a beautiful cascade, from a mill-dam on the south of the garden, appears again under the windows, in a surface smooth as glass. The Frith of Clyde, the Rock of Ailsa, and the Hills of Arran, terminate the view on another quarter.

In the immediate neighbourhood of this charming site on the N. E. is Carmel-bank, the property of Mr John Cuninghame, to whom this account is indebted for some hints of information. His house stands on the bank of the Carmel, from which circumstance it has its present name; formerly



in Sterling to the valued rent in Scots money, the real rent may be estimated at nearly L. 5000, the valued rent being L. 5305. Suppose the real rent to be L. 5000, that divided by an average rent the acre of 23s. will produce a quotient

formerly it was called the Mote. There is a tumulus still remaining, near the Carmel-bank, which is certainly that Mote; whether it served in days of old as a sanctuary, an observatory for communicating alarm, or was a place where courts of justice were held, no intelligence can now be had. The fosse, by which it had been surrounded, is still distinguishable, but no vestiges of building appear. Mr Cuninghame's lands of Mote or Carmel-bank are in excellent order, and discover the true spirit of agriculture in the proprietor. The friends of improvements have reason to wish that his territorial subject were more extensive. Besides the example he affords of good management, he is likewise very useful to society, by preventing law-suits among the peasantry, to whom he readily communicates his best advice; and which they receive with confidence, because he for some years made law his study.

Busby-castle stands a little beyond the last mentioned place, is now unroofed and falling into ruins. A family of Barklays possessed it long. The late Lord Glencairn sold it, with the lands belonging to it, to Miss Scott. Coal was wrought in these lands, and may still be had at no great expense. Concerning the Barklays of Busby, it is said, they had somehow incumbered the estate so much that they were obliged to wadset a great part of it. One of them, among the last heirs, being in such a straitened condition that he could not find as much money as would buy a new coat, made offer to renew a wadset which was about to expire, and which had every appearance of giving the person to whom the former one had been granted, all possible chance of becoming the real proprietor, if he would furnish—Barklay with money to buy a coat. But the man imagined, that since the laird was become so poor, there was no reason to believe that he could prevent the term of redemption from expiring. He was grievously mistaken, for Mr Barklay not only found from another quarter a new coat, but also as much money as redeemed the wadset.

Mr William Ralston, factor to the Earl of Eglinton, lives in this parish, and possesses a large farm. His attention to, and dispatch in business, is superior to that of most men. The interest of an employer was never better served than Lord Eglinton's is by him; and with such ease does he manage his own affairs, that one would imagine he has none to manage; yet it is this gentleman who sublets at L. 5 the acre, the arable land of his farm



quotient of 4391 $\frac{7}{8}$  acres; the 3d of which being in tillage, leaves 2928 of pasture. Two acres to each cow, makes them in number 1464. The butter and cheese from each cow is valued at L. 4 a-year. The value then of the pasture land in the parish, by this calculation, is L. 5856, besides profits upon young cattle, and swine fed upon the whey. 1463 acres, which is 1-3d of 4391, producing 7 bolls the acre, will yield 10,241 bolls of oats, which, at 1s. the peck, comes to L. 8192, 16s. added to L. 5856, is L. 14,048, from which, if the gross rent, the expense of seed, manure, labour, the interest of stock, tear and wear of utensils, &c. &c. be deduced, there will remain a sum equal at least to the rent; and it is evident, that the intention of proprietors is to allow their tenants to make one good rent for the use of the soil, one for defraying the expense of labour, &c. and one for the maintenance of their families, &c. While this is the case, master and tenant have reason to be pleased with one another. It is not affirmed that the above statement is exactly the truth. It cannot, however, be far from it; and it serves to establish this fact, that while proprietors wish to have a reasonable rent for their lands, they wish also to avoid oppression towards their tenants. At present the value of land is greatly on the increase, and the reason is, that every thing it produces is also increased in value. Butter is here sold for 11 d. the lb.; cheese for 7 s. the stone. This last article is of that kind which is called

farm, and the pasture at L. 1 : 14 : 10. Under the influence of such gentlemen, agriculture must flourish. But as men are apt to overlook that which is familiar to their sight and constantly within their reach, it is necessary to call in the attention, and to fix it on those objects where it may find useful instruction. With this view so much has been written of particular persons, that when Sir John Sinclair's publication shall be completed, and of which it is intended we shall all be possessed, the actual farmers among us may read in it what would otherwise too much escape them.



called Dunlop, or sweet-milk cheese, though the mode of making it was first introduced into Dunlop parish, and from thence communicated gradually to the whole of Cunningham, yet now it is made in as much perfection here as there; great quantities of it are carried from this to the adjacent towns, and particularly to the market of Paisley and Glasgow\*.

*Town of Kilmaurs.*—It was erected into a burgh of barony by James V. at the instance of Cuthbert Earl of Glencairn, and William, his son, Lord Kilmaurs. That noble family then resided in this parish, where they had a house, some small ruins of which yet remain on the farm, which is called Jock's-thorn, near to the road leading from Stewarton to Kilmarnock, and the house known by the name of the *Place*, was possessed by them, where the late Chancellor had laid the foundation of a very extensive building, and executed part of it; but from embarrassments of fortune, from which he expected to be relieved by Government, in whose service, it is said, he incurred them, was obliged to give up the plan†. By a charter, written in Latin,

\* The price of a good hen is 1 s. 8 d. or 2 s. Sixpence, 8 d. and sometimes 9 d. is given for a dozen of eggs. Every thing is risen in proportion, and all owing to the number of consumers employed in great manufactures, where their earnings can afford the use of the best viwers. The labours of every man's hand are now abundantly rewarded. But he who is confined to a fixed pecuniary income, must attend strictly to the rule of three; and unless his given number be considerable, his proportion will be small indeed.

† This for a time was the mansion-house of the late Lady Eglinton. Captain Ralston now lives in it, a gentleman who went to the East Indies with Colonel Fullerton, or in the Seaforth's regiment, and returned, after eight years absence, with a handsome fortune. The estate of Warwick-hill now belongs to him.



Latin, and signed by the said Cuthbert Earl of Glencairn, and his son, Lord Kilmaurs, at Glasgow, 15th November 1577, it appears, that the five-pound land of Kilmaurs, consisting of 240 acres, was disposed to 40 different persons in feu-farm and free burgage, and to be held in equal proportions by them, their heirs and successors, upon the yearly payment of 80 merks of the usual money of the kingdom, that is, 2 merks for each 40th part \*. It is obvious,

\* The most remarkable clauses of this charter are the following:—“ Holding and having all and whole the five-pound lands of the village of Kilmaurs, with their pertinents, from us and our successors, Earls of Glencairn and Lords Barons of Kilmaurs, in free farm and heritage, and free burgage in barony for ever, by all the old righteous marches and divisions thereof, as they lay in length, breadth, in planes, hills, marshes, high-roads and foot-paths, water-lakes, rivulets, meadows, pasture and pasture-lands, huntings, hawkings, fishings, peats and turf, mosses and moss-rooms, coal and coal-heughs, orchards, gardens, fruit-trees, houses and buildings, kilns, bake-houses, cunnings and cunningaries, pigeons and pigeon-houses, quarries and limestone, smiddies, breweries and malting, broom-wood, and groves and shrubs, heights and hollows, arable and unarable land, with courts of justice, and their profits, amerciements and escheats, and with common pasture, and free fish and entry, mills, mul-tures, and sequels thereof, and with all and sundry liberties and commodities, profits, easements, and righteous pertinents thereof whatsoever, as well not named as named, as well under as above the earth, far or near. Moreover, for us, our heirs and successors, exonerate, amit, inhibit, and by the tenor of these presents, disclaim from us all use of buying or selling, of brewing or making malt, and of all other art or trade, viz. of shoemakers, cutlers, waukers, skinners, carpenters, and woolsters, to be exercised within our said barony of Kilmaurs, except in our said burgh in barony, and the liberties thereof, viz. within the limits of the five-pound land thereof, as above written. And further, that all and sundry vendible goods, viz. meal, bear, malt, wheat, corn, lint, wool, sheep, cattle, horse, flesh, fish, and whatsoever other merchandise is in our said barony, in all time coming, shall be first presented to the common market in our said burgh in barony foresaid.” These particulars surely are peculiar, or very uncommon; so likewise is this clause,—“ And no woman, succeeding to an inheritance in the said burgh, shall marry without our special license.”



vious, that the great design of the Noble family in this erection, was to bring together into one place as many trades people as possible, and that the feuing of these lands was meant as an encouragement and help to such; but it has all along produced a contrary effect. Six acres of land was the share which fell to each of these 40 feuars or tenementers, as they are called, the cultivation of which is no more than proper exercise and amusement for a man whose employment is sedentary, and which, with his labour otherwise, would enable him to live in some degree of comfort. But it is the misfortune of most men, to have a greater liking for employments that are foreign to them, than for those which they have been bred up to follow; hence, the tenementers of Kilmaurs did abandon their principal business, and content themselves with the produce of their small bit of ground. This burgh land is famous for having served Galloway, Nithsdale, Clydesdale, and all Ayrshire, with kail plants; and it was the demand for them that turned the attention of the proprietors so much to the cultivation of their little spots; but that demand has long ceased, other countries having learnt to raise this article for themselves. There is not in the county better land, but it labours under this disadvantage of being runridge. In this case inclosures are impracticable, except where good sense has prevailed in bringing about an exchange of property, and it is hoped, that the beneficial consequences of the few instances of this that have happened, will open the eyes of those who are blinded by prejudice and custom. The number of portioners is now less than when the charter was granted, several of the fortieth parts having been sold and laid together by one purchaser, and it is probable, that they will all in time become an united property; a circumstance not to be regretted, seeing, that under such a division, all trade is neglected, and a very scanty subsistence

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procured by the possession of them, while they are the only object of attention. The town is pleasantly situated on a gentle ascent, looking towards the south. It consists of one street only, with a by-lane or two, and a few back houses, the entries to which are through those in the front. A small town-house stands in the middle, having a steeple and good clock. In this, the courts of Justice are held, and the meetings of Council for electing Magistrates, and other affairs of the town. No man can be elected a Magistrate unless he be also a portioner, and none but those who are portioners can vote in such elections \*. Many of the fortieth parts being now the property of one person, there are by these means houses to spare for tradesmen, and more might still be had by subfeuing. There is every inducement for such people to choose an habitation here. The town is distant from coal, wrought in the lands of Mr Ritchie of Busby, only one mile or a little more. Each house has a garden belonging to it, sufficient to supply any family with plenty of potatoes, and every ordinary vegetable. The market of Kilmarnock, which is but 2 English miles from this, can afford every thing else that may be needed. There was a time when 30 cutlers, and a good many tinkers, resided in Kilmaurs. The cutlers made excellent work, some of which is to be seen in the parish to this day, particularly breakfast knives, superior, it is said, to any thing of the kind that has as yet been made at Sheffield or Birmingham. The blade is of the best metal, neatly shaped, finely polished, and set in a haft of Tortoise-shell,

\* Two bailies are chosen annually, but their influence is inconsiderable, having no constables to assist in the execution of their authority; the disorderly and riotous therefore laugh at their threatened punishments. This is not a defect in the constitution of the burgh, but a neglect hitherto of their own, in not applying to the quarter-session for an appointment of this kind.



shell, or stained horn, girt with silver virlets \*. A branch of business has of late sprung up in this place, tambouring, which affords employment to the females, and which has rendered the expense of rearing a family not only less, but has made it an advantage for a man to have his family consist mostly of that sex. Girls at the age of 8 or 9 years, it is said, can earn 8 d. a-day, and those of 14 or 15 1 s. 6 d. It is pleasant to see the effects of this industry in the dress and manners of these people. Long may such sources of comfort continue; for though the human mind is apt to be intoxicated by prosperity, and the conduct to be thereby tinctured with levity, yet, in circumstances of this kind, the heart is more easily trained to virtue, and the good less liable to hypocrisy. Some have complained in the Statistical Account of their parishes, that these works of art, which bring so many people of different sex, age and tempers together are unfriendly to the interest of morality. But an attentive observer must be convinced, that the vices which are most hurtful to society, do not prevail so much where an open and unrestrained intercourse takes place, as where secrecy and the *tempora mollia fandi* are frequently enjoyed. Besides, that virtue which proceeds from the absence of temptation, is merely negative; and though it may prevent punishment, yet is not surely the object of reward. That propensity to imitation which  
is

\* The keen edge which they put on instruments requiring it, gave rise to a mode of speech which is yet in use through the country. A man of acute understanding, and quickness in action, is said to be as sharp as a Kilmaurs whittle. An old Presbyterian clergyman, in addressing himself to his audience, upon rising to speak after a young divine, who had delivered a discourse in flowery language, and English pronunciation; said, "My friends, We have had great deal of fine English ware among us the day, but aiblins, my Kilmaurs whittle will cut as sharply as ony English blade;" meaning that the language of his own country would be better understood, and do more good.



is found in the human constitution, should operate in favour of virtue as well as vice; and therefore, as in every society there are some virtuously inclined, why should the influence of good example be less powerful than that which is bad? Human nature should never be disparaged too much, nor more expected from it than what consists with the situation in which it is placed.

The inhabitants of Kilmaurs town are in number 514, of which 226 are males, 288 females.

## Husbands between

## Wives between

|              |    |              |    |
|--------------|----|--------------|----|
| 15 and 20, - | 1  | 20 and 30, - | 16 |
| 20 and 30, - | 13 | 30 and 40, - | 30 |
| 30 and 40, - | 14 | 40 and 50, - | 24 |
| 40 and 50, - | 22 | 50 and 60, - | 14 |
| 50 and 60, - | 17 | 60 and 70, - | 5  |
| 60 and 70, - | 11 | 70 and 80, - | 2  |
| 70 and 80, - | 6  |              |    |
| 80 and 90, - | 2  |              |    |

## Male children.

## Female.

## Males unmarried.

|             |             |             |            |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 & 5, 39   | 1 & 5, 29   | 15 & 20, 18 | 50 & 60, 2 |
| 5 & 10, 21  | 5 & 10, 23  | 20 & 30, 12 | 60 & 70, 2 |
| 10 & 15, 33 | 10 & 15, 32 | 40 & 50, 1  | 31         |
| —           | —           | —           | —          |
| 93          | 84          | 31          | 35         |

## Widowers.

## Widows.

## Females unmarried.

|               |              |               |
|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 20 and 30, 1  | 30 and 40, 2 | 15 and 20, 27 |
| 40 and 50, 1  | 40 and 50, 5 | 20 and 30, 23 |
| —             | —            | —             |
| Carry over, 2 | 7            | 50            |



| Widowers.       | Widows.       | Females unmarried. |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Brought over, 2 | 7             | 50                 |
| 50 and 60, 1    | 50 and 60, 10 | 30 and 40, 10      |
| 60 and 70, 3    | 60 and 70, 9  | 40 and 50, 11      |
| 70 and 80, 1    | 70 and 80, 4  | 50 and 60, 6       |
| —               | 80 and 90, 1  | 60 and 70, 3       |
| 7               | —             | 70 and 80, 1       |
|                 | 31            | 80 and 90, 1       |
|                 |               | 82                 |

|                  |    |                          |    |
|------------------|----|--------------------------|----|
| Cotton-spinners, | 3  | Day-labourers,           | 16 |
| Shoemakers,      | 21 | Apprent. to shoemakers,  | 8  |
| Tailors,         | 4  | ————— to wrights,        | 7  |
| Masons,          | 9  | ————— to weavers,        | 4  |
| Wrights,         | 6  | ————— to smith,          | 1  |
| Weavers,         | 9  | Journeyman weavers,      | 3  |
| Smiths,          | 2  | Ditto shoemakers,        | 2  |
| Colliers,        | 11 | Flaxdresser,             | 1  |
| Cooper,          | 1  | Clock and watchmaker,    | 1  |
| Tinkers,         | 4  | Women-servants,          | 1  |
| Stocking weaver, | 1  | Parish school-master,    | 1  |
| Fidler,          | 1  | Teacher without salary*, | 1  |

The

\* No unusual customs prevail among the inhabitants of this parish. There is one indeed common to the whole country, that of gathering many people together, and entertaining them at considerable expense when they bury their dead. However ill it can be afforded, nothing must be spared that custom has sanctioned. By exploding this in a great measure, many would have it in their power to do more essential acts of kindness to their friends and relations when living. There is little merit in helping to bury those whom we help to starve. Nor do the deceased feel or enjoy any of the gratifications of vanity or misplaced veneration, which prompt to this custom.



The people are in general industrious, and where their interest is concerned, they have address sufficient for obtaining or preserving it. Suspicion among themselves in transacting business, and design covered by an affected simplicity towards superiors are perhaps sometimes discernible. Compared with the times which are honoured with the character of pure, the vices which now appear are fewer and less atrocious. Like every other community, ours consists of a mixture of characters. Justice requires it to be told, that much civility, kindness, integrity, and candour, are practised by many.

#### NOTE.

The kirk of Kilmaurs was founded a college by Sir William Cuninghame of Kilmaurs the 13th of May 1403, and endowed by him with certain lands, for the support of a provost, seven prebendaries, and two singing-boys. It is difficult to determine where these lands lay; part of them, it is probable, are now the property of James Watson, Esq; merchant, Greenock. The tower, of which this gentleman is the proprietor, has been an high strong built house, consisting of several apartments, and is separated from the church by a garden, laid out with excellent taste, especially of the kind which is favourable to retirement and meditation. This, of all other places in the parish, is best suited to the convenience of the clergy. It is therefore most likely they had this for their residence. The lands contiguous, consisting of 80 acres nearly, less or more, pay no teind either to the titular or minister; and no reason can be assigned for this, unless that they are church-lands, belonging originally to the Cistercian order. There was a mill, called the prebendary mill, immediately in the neighbourhood of the lands now mentioned, to which a district of the parish was thirled, and the multures were paid for behoof of the prebendaries. The religious house of Kilmaurs, it is said, was annexed to the abbey of Selkirk, afterward Roxburgh, now Kelso. The church itself must have undergone many alterations, if it is not altogether new since its first erection. There is nothing magnificent either in its size or structure. The only remarkable thing about it, is a burying place and monument belonging to the family of Glencairn. The monument has been executed at very considerable expense, but it is now in a state of shameful disrepair. It is open to every idle and thoughtless visitor, who takes pleasure in demolishing the carved work: It is the only interest which

the



the representatives of that noble family now have in the parish, where their influence was once great, and their property extensive; with submission, therefore, it may be observed, that some attention is due to the memorials of ancient greatness. We regret that the most beautiful structures of art cannot be preserved from the ravages of time, but when they are suffered by neglect to fall into ruins, we cannot refrain from censuring those to whom that neglect, with its consequences, are to be attributed.

A disposition to secede from the established church hath long subsisted among the inhabitants of Kilmaurs: and this disposition was first excited by the following circumstance: About the 1712, Mr Hugh Thomson, then minister of this parish, demitted, upon the expectation of being called to Stewarton, but was somehow disappointed; and either his pride would not permit him to solicit a re-admission, or a majority of the people, disobliged with his giving them up, refused it. He retired to a small property of his own in the parish, and on Sabbaths preached sometimes at his own fire-side, and sometimes from a tent in the fields, to as many of his friends as would hear him. Five or six years elapsed before another minister was elected; during which time Mr Thomson had frequent opportunities of reconciling himself to many of his former congregation. After Mr Miller was chosen and ordained, Mr Thomson still continued to preach in his own barn, or in the fields, to as many as were willing to hear him. Inconstancy, which always attends the multitude, disposed some to go one way and some another; directed by humour, local convenience, or by the influence of one upon another, they attended sometimes Mr Miller, at other times Mr Thomson. While they were in this fluctuating state, which continued long after Mr Thomson and Mr Miller's death; Mr Smyton a young Anti-burger Minister, made his appearance amongst them. This clergyman by the exercise of popular talents, or by the novelty of his declamations against the real or supposed defections of the church, drew crowds after him. A congregation was soon formed for him, and a meeting-house built. He married a daughter of Mr Thomson's, and by her succeeded to the property of a very good farm which is still in the possession of his heirs. As nothing that is violent can be of long duration, so the extreme ardour with which this man was followed, gradually abated, and he sunk at last into the climate of cool estimation. A dispute took place between him and his associate brethren about lifting the bread in the sacrament and holding it during the prayer of consecration. Mr Smyton insisted, that it is of religious obligation to observe this mode of dispensing our Lord's Supper, and positively enjoined by the words of the institution itself. By his brethren, this action was considered as not  
3 binding



binding the conscience, but that it might, or might not be performed without incurring guilt. The argument was keenly agitated. At length it issued in a rupture. Mr Smyton refused to hold communion with those who did not punctually conform to his opinion, and the synod passed a sentence of expulsion against him for his obstinacy. He was formally deposed, but he despised the authority by which this was done, and continued to preach. Part of his congregation now separated from him, and part remained. It then became a question, who had the right to the meeting-house. Whether those who remained, or those who went off. The Court of Session determined it in favour of Mr Smyton, on this principle, that the majority of the Eldership, if not of the Congregation, remained with him. The swarm that went off soon found for themselves a new house. They are distinguished by the appellation of Lifters and Antilifters, or new and old light. Of the former, including young people and children, who generally follow their parents, but have made no choice for themselves, going sometimes to one, and sometimes to another place of worship, the number is 151, of the other 114, of Burghers, 69, Relief 7. Would to God, that as much of the power as of the form of religion were appearing among us! 'But while one says I am of Paul, another, I am of Apollos,' the truth as it is in Jesus, even that religion which is from above, and is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy, and good fruits, is too much overlooked.

**NUMBER**



## NUMBER XXIV.

## PARISH OF STEWARTOWN,

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS MAXWELL.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

THE origin of its name is uncertain. But it is said to have taken its rise from some of the Stewart race of Scottish kings having a residence in it, and the remains of those houses are still to be seen near the town.—It is above 10 miles in length, and in some places about 4 in breadth. From many places in this parish, there are extensive views of the Western Ocean, the island of Arran, and Craig of Ailfa. The appearance of the country is flat: But there is a gradual descent from the head of the parish to the sea. There are no mountains, but small hills in different places, and some of them are called Law hills, either because that in old times courts of justice were held upon them, or from the *low* or flame raised on them, as a signal of the approach



of an enemy\*. The air is rather moist, and in some seasons of the year there are heavy rains for a continued time, owing probably to the nearness of the Western Ocean, and Arran hills.

*Minerals, Agriculture, Soil, &c.*—There are some freestone, and several lime quarries. But there is no coal wrought in the parish, which is a great loss to the inhabitants, who are at a considerable distance from it. Several attempts have been made for it in different parts of the parish, but they have hitherto proved ineffectual. This parish and neighbourhood is remarkable for large good milk cows, of which several persons have from 10 to 20. They make fine sweet milk cheese, for which there is a great demand, and which gives a very high price. A tenant of Sir William Cunningham of Livingston, who was then proprietor of Robertland estate in this parish, got a premium several years at Edinburgh for the best cheese in Scotland. This estate is now the property of Sir John Hunter Blair. About 30 years ago there were few or no inclosures in the parish, but now it is mostly inclosed and subdivided, and pays from 20s. to 30s. the acre, and some of it more, which must make the real rent very great, especially as the ground is mostly arable. The valued rent is about L. 7000 Scots, and I suppose the real rent may be about L. 7000 Sterling. But as many of the small heritors have their farms in their own hands, it is difficult, for this and some other reasons, to be exactly ascertained. The soil is various in different parts of the parish. At the head of it, which borders with the Mearns moor, it is not so good, but in the lower part it is mostly a strong clay soil. There are upwards of 90 ploughs employed. The method of improving land here is the same

\* Hence it is said, that London in Ayrshire, the Lowmond hills in Fife, and Ben-Lomond in Dumbartonshire, derive their names.



same as in Kilmarnock and other neighbouring parishes, mentioned in former volumes, and not insisted on here, with a view to avoid repetition. There are extensive belts of plantations in different parts of the parish.

*Heritors, Town, Schools, Poor, &c.*—There are 8 larger, and above 100 smaller heritors, who are called portioners, and who mostly reside in the parish. Mr Cunningham of Lainshaw is patron. The roof of the church was taken off in 1772, and the walls heightened; it is now well seated, and holds a great number. The manse was built so far back as 1642, and though it has got some small repairs at different times, is still in a bad condition. The town of Stewartown may vie with any of its size in the west of Scotland, for beauty, regularity, and cleanness. It consists of one long and broad street, with a cross one. It has increased some hundreds, since the present minister was settled, and a great number of new houses have lately been built in it. The water of Annock, which takes its rise in the Mearns moor, runs past this town in the form of a semicircle, and empties itself into the sea a little below Irvine. There are 3 bridges over this water, at equal distances from one another, between the head of the town and the foot of it. There are 2 tolls in the parish, one on the road to Kilmarnock, the other on the road to Irvine, but none on the road to Glasgow, which was made more than 30 years ago.—There are 2 schools in the country part of the parish, and 3 in the town, in some of which, (besides English), Latin, Greek, French, and book-keeping, are taught. The salary of the parish schoolmaster is only L. 100 Scots, out of which he gives 20 merks yearly to the 2 country schools. But it is expected, as the parish is so numerous and wealthy, it will soon be augmented.—The number of weekly pensioners is 6. They get 1s. And there are 20 quarterly, who get according



according to their necessities. The yearly collection amounts to L. 40. None of the poor in the parish are allowed to beg out of it. But as the road from Glasgow to Ayr, Irvine, &c. passes through this town, the inhabitants are oppressed with great numbers of strolling poor from Glasgow and the other neighbouring towns.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population then amounted to 2819. There are belonging to the Church about 2300 souls. Besides, there are some Burghers and Antiburgher Seceders, and a few old Cameronians; but all these sects live in good harmony with the minister and people of the Established Church. The precise number of the whole cannot be exactly ascertained. There is 1 surgeon and 1 writer in the town, also from 100 to 130 weavers; but the chief trade in this place, and has been, it is said, for above 100 years, is bonnet making, which employs a great number of hands. They make also what are called French or Quebec caps. Besides supplying the country and the Highlands with these articles, large quantities are exported, which turn out to good account; so that it is said they draw L. 50 weekly in return. The births, deaths, and marriages, as entered in the parish register, for six years, are as follow:

| Years. | Births. | Deaths. | Marriages. |
|--------|---------|---------|------------|
| 1784,  | 59      | 54      | 30         |
| 1785,  | 63      | 40      | 11         |
| 1786,  | 60      | 55      | 29         |
| 1787,  | 51      | 82      | 24         |
| 1788,  | 48      | 48      | 18         |
| 1789,  | 63      | 57      | 35*        |

*Miscellaneous*

\* Beef, mutton, and all other kinds of provision, (except meal), are as dear here as any where in Scotland, and servant's wages are at an extravagant



*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are mostly of the usual size, and some considerably above it. They are in general a sober intelligent people, hospitable to strangers, and charitable to the poor, of which several instances could be mentioned. There have been some instances of longevity in the parish. A man died some years ago, who was about 103, a lady above 97, and a worthy heritor and elder died lately, who was above 90. This is a post-town, and has been so for a long time past. There is a regular arrival and dispatch at and from this every day, for all towns in Britain, and letters come safely here, without having any other post-office written on them.—David Dale, Esq; late one of the magistrates of Glasgow, was born and educated in this place. He is well known in the commercial world, for the many manufactures he has introduced, and carries on with success. His piety, humility, and acts of charity, are worthy of imitation.

gant rate, which makes it very difficult for those whose income is stated, and not advanced, to keep a family. Mutton is from 4½ d. to 6 d. the pound. Beef from 6 s. to 6 s. 6 d. the stone. Cheese from 7 s. to 7 s. 6 d. the stone. Butter from 9 d. to 11 d. the pound, and other things in proportion.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXV.

## PARISH OF AVENDALE OR STRATHAVEN.

(COUNTY OF LANARK, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON,)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN SCOTT.*

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*Situation, Extent, Rivers, Minerals &c.*

**T**HE parish and barony of Avendale is situated in the middle ward of the county of Lanark. It is 12 miles in length, and from 5 to 6 broad. The face of the country, as the name imports, is open, rising gradually from both sides of the Aven, and on the south side terminating in hills. The soil and climate are various. In the hilly part, and towards the W. and N. W. boundaries, the soil is generally black, and covered with heath and bent, and the climate is very different from what it is on the banks of Aven. In the lower grounds, the soil is in many places light and gravelly, in some clay and loam, and in others deep moss, or a wet spongy substance made up of different soils. The air, though moist, is not unwholesome, the inhabitants being seldom visited with any epidemical distemper.



distemper. Great numbers arrive at the age of 80 years and upwards. There are at present two people above 90. The Aven \*, which rises on the confines of the parishes of Sorn and Galston, runs from S. W. to N. E. the whole length of this parish, dividing it nearly into two equal parts. In its course, it is augmented first by a cut from Lochgate, which is the boundary between this and the parish of Galston, and afterward by the waters of Givel, Calder, Lockhart, Kype, Pomilion, and a great number of smaller streams. There is trout in all these streams, and a few salmon in the Aven; besides an immense number of small fish, resembling salmon fry, called parrs. There is abundance of lime in different parts of the parish, and some coal, but very little freestone. The coal which has hitherto been found is not of the best quality, but does very well for burning lime. There is a miner from the county of Durham, just now employed in sinking for coal, about 2 miles from the town of Strathaven. He has found a seam between 2 and 3 feet thick, but expects to find a larger, by going down a little farther. There are appearances of coal elsewhere in the parish, and some ironstone. As coal is the only fuel used in the lower part of the parish, and as the price of that necessary article has been doubled in the course of a few years, it is hoped that no expense will be spared in searching for it, where there is any probability of success. Most of the coal consumed in the town of Strathaven,

\* Avon, I am informed, in the Gaelic language, signifies *a river*. It is pronounced Auon, the first syllable like the Greek diphthong *av*. From the circumstance of its being written with an *o*, and from several rivers in this island being called Avon, it is probable that the proper name of this parish is Avondale, though in old charters it is written either Avendale or Evandale. The church stands in the lower end of the parish, at the town of Strathaven, which gives occasion to the parish being frequently so called; but *Dale* is more descriptive of the face of the country than *Strath*; and the former seems to be the most ancient name.



aven, is at present brought from the parishes of Hamilton and Dalserf, at the distance of 5 and 6 miles.

*Crops, Cattle, &c.*—The crops raised here are oats, bear, a few pease, considerable quantities of potatoes, some rye-grass, and almost every farmer sows a peck or two of lint-seed for household uses. The low grounds, when ploughed after being sufficiently rested, yield good grain, which in an ordinary season is cut down fully ripe; but on the borders of the moors, the crops are very precarious, and seldom ripen. In the neighbourhood of the town of Strathaven, where land rents at from 20 s. to 40 s. the acre, the rotation is a crop of oats, potatoes, oats, bear with grass-seeds, and after the grass has been cut for two years, it is pastured till the land is again fit for cropping. Potatoes are nowhere cultivated with more care. Almost every tradesman plants a few falls of ground in potatoes, for the use of his family. These he labours at his leisure hours, from which he derives health and amusement, and a wholesome part of food for five or six months in the year, at a very moderate expense. But this district, excepting a few farms in the lower end of the parish, is better adapted for pasture than tillage; and the rents are mostly made up from the sale of cheese, butter, and veal. The cheese made here sells at from 6 s. to 7 s. the stone, and calves have sometimes been sold at L. 4 Sterling; but the average price is from L. 1 to L. 3. The practice of bleeding calves, so common in England, is hardly known here. The only arts used to make them fatten fast, are bringing them on gradually to take a great deal of milk, keeping them in a dark place, and amidst plenty of dry litter. Unless they are fed moderately at first, they are apt to loathe the milk in a short time; and, like most other young animals, they are sportive, and apt to take too much exercise, which is best prevented by shutting them up from the light. A calf of two months old, well fed, often sells  
at



at from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3. The demand for veal is so great, that the farmers never think of rearing more calves than what is necessary to keep up their stock of cows. The number of cows kept is about 18 upon the ploughgate of land. They are of small size, but well made, and are found to be more hardy, easier fed, and to yield more milk in proportion to their size than cattle of a larger breed. The value of milk is now so well understood, that even the whey is turned to account by feeding young swine with it. During the summer months, these animals swell upon it amazingly, and by being fed upon potatoes and oats, or oat-meal, for a month or six weeks in harvest, are fit for slaughter in the month of November, when they are commonly 8 months old, and weigh from 8 to 9 stone. This cleanly sort of feeding has reconciled the people here to the use of swine's flesh, which was once held in abomination. The old Scots plough is the only one in use here. It is sometimes drawn by 3, but oftener by 4 horses. The number of horses in the parish has been gradually diminishing of late years, owing to there being less land in tillage, and a great deal of the wet grounds being laboured with the spade. Besides, it is now becoming customary to buy horses about the end of January, and to sell them again about the end of May, when the labour is over; so that a farmer who occupies a ploughgate of land, seldom keeps more than two work horses for 8 months in the year. There are a few horses reared, and the breed is improving. A pair of draught horses, bred here, was sold a while ago at L. 70 Sterling. Although every farmer has more or less land in tillage, yet the country part of the parish, in an ordinary season, does very little more than supply itself with grain. The greatest part of the oat-meal consumed in the town of Strathaven, is brought from the neighbouring parishes, and the wheat-flour made use of by the bakers, is



brought from the east country in carts, which carry butter, cheese and veal, to the Edinburgh market. The inclosing of the low grounds, which was begun about 30 years ago, has banished all the sheep, excepting a few pets, entirely to the moor farms. The number kept upon these is about 7500, all of the old Scots breed; and the only improvement which has hitherto been made in this sort of farming, is that of keeping fewer upon the ground. The wool, like the pasture, is coarse, and takes about 8 fleeces to the stone, which sells at from 5 to 6 s. In wet seasons the sheep are very liable to the rot.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls at that time was 3551. Mr Charles Ross, in his map of Lanarkshire, published in 1773, makes the population of this parish to be 3770 souls. But he has certainly over-rated it; for it does not contain that number at present, though it has been on the increase since that period. By an enumeration made in the years 1780 and 1781, the population was as follows:

In the country, 336 families, 1748 persons; 60 more women than men.

In the town, 439 families, 1444 persons; 138 more women than men.

In the whole parish, 775 families, 3192 persons.

#### Population in 1791 and 1792.

In the country, 315 families, 1733 persons; only 9 more women than men.

In the town, 469 families, 1610 persons; 28 more women than men.

In the whole parish, 784 families, 3343 persons.

The diminution of inhabitants in the country is owing to the moor farms having gone into fewer hands, and there being



being now almost no cottagers in the parish. The proportion between males and females in the years 1780 and 1781, and at present, shows the advantages of peace, and the flourishing state of our manufactures. At the former period, in consequence of the American war, trade was dull, and many young men enlisted in the army, or left the country in quest of employment; but there is now more work at home than hands. The number of births and deaths cannot be exactly ascertained, as they are not all registered. The births, it is believed, are about 100 annually. In the year 1788, more than 40 children died of the small-pox. Inoculation is practised here, but not generally, owing to its having proved fatal in one or two instances. The average number of marriages for 8 years past, has been between 32 and 33. There have been 9 irregular marriages during the last 6 years.

*Manufactures, &c.*—The spinning and manufacturing of Dutch flax was once a considerable article of trade in the town of Strathaven, but has been on the decline ever since the introduction of the cotton manufacture. About 15 years ago, from 12 to 15 hands were constantly employed in dressing flax; now there are not more than 2 or 3 employed in it. The principal employment of the women then was spinning, and they were famous for making fine yarn. A considerable part of the yarn was manufactured for the behoof of people in the place, and the remainder was carried to the great manufacturing towns. Now the weavers are almost wholly employed by the Glasgow and Paisley manufacturers, and cotton yarn is the principal material. Great numbers of young women too are employed, by the same people, in flowering muslin. There are upwards of 300 looms in the town of Strathaven, and about 30 more in the country part of the parish, and yet it is with great difficulty that



that the inhabitants can get their home-spun yarn manufactured into cloth. The great wages made by weaving, induces many parents to put their boys too early to that business, which stunts their growth, occasions swellings about their legs, and hurts their morals, by rendering them too soon independent of their parents. The same temptation is presented to the girls by the flowering of muslin, which, by confining them too soon to a sedentary life, makes them pale and sickly, and is likely to subject them to nervous complaint all their lives. There is a cotton mill erecting at the town of Strathaven, which, it is said, will employ from 60 to 70 hands. There are other two in contemplation. About 30 years ago, there was only 1 baker in the town. There are now 3, and all well employed. The number of butchers too has been doubled within the same period. There are 22 public houses in the parish, 20 of which are in the town, and about the same number of dealers in tea and tobacco. Some accidents have happened of late years, from the retailing of bad whisky.—There are commonly 2, sometimes 3 surgeons in the town, and the same number of writers\*.

*Rent, Division of Property, &c.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 7650 Scots, the real rent is about L. 6000 Sterling, exclusive of the rents of the houses in the town. These let

\* *Prices of Labour and Provisions.*—The price of labour has advanced almost a third in the course of the last three or four years. The wages of a man-servant, who lives in the house, are from L. 9 to L. 10 a-year; and of a woman-servant, from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 5. A labourer by the day earns 1 s. and his victuals, and in harvest, 1 s. 6. d. or 1 s. 8. d. Masons wages are now 2 s. and 2 s. 2 d. a-day. In the neighbourhood of the town there is a good deal of labour in the fields done by the piece, especially digging. This place being only 16 miles distant from Glasgow, and having a number of carriers who go there weekly, the price of all kinds of provisions is only a trifle lower than in that market.



let at from 10 s. to L. 14 a-year. The Duke of Hamilton is superior of all the lands in the parish, excepting a very small portion of temple land, which is held of Lord Torphichen. The Duke is also proprietor of between a third and a fourth part of the parish. The rest is divided among a great number of heritors. Thirteen are possessed of L. 100 Scots, and upwards, of valued rent; of these four do not reside in the parish. There is a considerable number of smaller heritors, possessed of single farms, or ploughgates of land, and a great many portioners. Several good houses have been built by different heritors within these 20 years. The whole parish is divided into 101 ploughgates. These are very unequal, both in value and extent. No heritor or tenant occupies more arable land than he can labour easily with 1 plough. There is 1 moor farm, or rather 2 or 3 united, which is very extensive, and rents at L. 130 a-year. A few farms are rented at from L. 50 to L. 70, but the parish is generally parcelled into much smaller farms.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, &c.*—There are 3 houses for public worship in the parish, all of them situated at the town of Strathaven, which is far from being central. In the year 1772, the parish-church was removed from a fine elevated situation in the church-yard, and rebuilt in a low damp place, contrary to the minds of the great body of the people. The veneration which they had for the ancient fabric, the place where their fathers had long worshipped, the incommodioufness of the new house, without seats, and the inhabitants of the town being refused their proper proportion of it, determined them to set on foot a subscription for a chapel of ease. A decent house was accordingly built, and conveniently fitted up in 1776. While the house was building, several ministers of the presbytery of Relief came and preached at a tent, with whose eloquence the people were



were so charmed, that they no longer thought of a chapel of ease, but of a Relief meeting-house. Besides this, there is an Antiburgher meeting-house, which was built about the year 1766\*. About the one half of the inhabitants of the town, and almost two-thirds of the country part of the parish, still adhere to the Established Church. The rest are either dissenters of different denominations, or make no religious profession of any kind. The Relief congregation is numerous, but it is partly made up from the neighbouring parishes of Glasford, Stonehouse, and Kilbride. The Antiburgher congregation is made up in the same way; but though of longer standing than the other, is much smaller. There are still a few of the old Cameronians in the parish. Instead of worshipping in the fields, as formerly, they now have a meeting-house in the neighbouring parish of Loudon, to which they occasionally resort. The observations of a worthy clergyman of this church are fully verified here. "Divisions which were formed in anger redound to the increase of knowledge and forbearance; time moderates the fierceness of wrath; the multitude of sects abates their animosity; principle is respected, mistakes are pardoned, and they are drawn together again by the bonds of humanity."—The Duke of Hamilton is patron.—The stipend is

\* To counteract seceding principles, and to accomodate the remote parts of the parish with a house for public worship, Mr William Gilmour, preacher of the gospel, who had long been catechist in the parish, began about the year 1777, to build a chapel in a convenient place, between four and five miles distant from the parish-church. He died about the beginning of the year 1780, shortly after the intended chapel, manse, and schoolmaster's house were roofed in, leaving his whole estate, which was considerable, for endowing the chapel, and other pious uses within the parish. But his will, or rather wills, (for there were six of them, and all holograph,) were found to be so perplexed, that the heir at law thought fit to seize upon the estate, and the validity of the wills has never yet been brought to a trial. Thus, the good man's purposes have been defeated, by not employing a man of business to write his will.



is 6 chalders of victual, L. 600 Scots in money, and 90 merks for communion-elements; all of which has hitherto been paid by one hand. The glebe was originally 4 acres, but has been twice cut up with turnpike roads in the course of the last 7 years; so that it is now rendered of little value to possess, but might be turned to account by feuing it for house steadings and gardens. The manse is large and commodious, but having been ill built at first, is frequently standing in need of repairs. Besides the minister, there is a catechist or assistant preacher, who enjoys a benefice of 500 merks a-year, mortified by Ann Duchefs of Hamilton in 1710. The late Mr William Gilmour, above mentioned, left money for raising it to L. 40 Sterling; but, like his other benefactions, it has not yet taken effect.

*Schools, Poor, &c.*—The parish schoolmaster has a salary of 200 merks, a school-room, a dwelling-house, and a small garden. He teaches English, Latin, Greek, arithmetic, and writing. The wages are, for English 1s. 2d. a-quarter, and for the other branches of education, 1s. 8d. The average number of scholars for the whole year is 60. There is a private school in the town equally numerous. The parish schoolmaster is commonly precentor, session-clerk, and clerk to the parish-meetings. There are always 2, sometimes 3 schools in remote parts of the parish.—Most of the poverty to be found here may be traced to the use of tea, tobacco, and whisky. These luxuries are not only too expensive for people in narrow circumstances, but the constant use of them begets habits very unfavourable to health and industry. In this part of the country, the price of labour always bears such a proportion to the necessaries of life, as that the sober and industrious may not only earn present subsistence, but may lay up something against the evil day. There are some indeed born in poverty, with such weak and sickly constitutions as to be unable to work,  
and



and others, whom age or disease, or calamity, has reduced to want; these no doubt are peculiarly entitled to relief. But the provision for such as become poor through sloth, or drunkenness or sensuality, or vain expense, ought to be very scanty. The average number of poor upon the parish roll, for the last 10 years, has been from 50 to 60. The funds for their support, are, the interest of L. 500 Sterling of stock, at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. the mortcloth money, which usually amounts to about L. 14 a-year, a small sum arising from the proclamation of marriages, and ringing of the church bell at funerals, and an assessment upon the parish. The heritors and kirk-session meet half-yearly, at Candlemas and Lammass, and proportion the assessment. It is laid, the one half upon the heritors, according to their valued rent, and the other half upon householders, according to their supposed circumstances. For some years past it has amounted to L. 100 Sterling a-year. The pensioners are paid monthly by the collector, who has a small salary for his trouble \*.

*Antiquities, Names of Places, &c.*—A Roman road or causeway, can be traced for several miles on the south side of

\* Perhaps it would be better to pay them oftener, and to give them part of their allowance in meal. Before they can be admitted, they must apply by petition at one of the half yearly meetings, and make an assignation of all their effects to the parish. Of these an inventory is taken, and they are sold after their death.—The collections made in the parish church are allowed for exigencies.—There are two small mortifications for paying school-wages, and purchasing Bibles and catechisms, for the children of the poor. Besides these funds, the incorporated trades, (of which there are four in the town,) have each of them a box as it is called, out of which they make distributions among their indigent and distressed members. The calamity which arose from the failure of crop 1782, was greatly alleviated, by their laying out part of their stock in the purchase of grain, which they sold at (and in some cases under) prime cost.



of the Avon. On the same side of the river, there are 3 chapels named after different saints, which were probably places of worship, where the clergy belonging to the neighbouring abbey of Lesmahagoe, officiated at times for the benefit of the people, before this district was erected into a parish. An honest man, who happened to dig up some human bones near one of these chapels a while ago, remarked, that the people in old times had been much about the same size as at present.—The town of Strathaven was erected into a burgh of barony in the year 1450, with the usual privileges, and had an extensive commonry; all of which has long ago become private property. It has a weekly market, and a number of annual fairs; but having no public funds, has no other magistracy than a baron bailie appointed by the Duke of Hamilton. This parish was anciently a part of the estate of Douglas, which being forfeited in the reign of James I. continued in the hands of the Crown till the year 1456, when it was erected into a barony in favour of Andrew Stuart, grandson of Murdoch Duke of Albany, who was at that time created Lord Avendale, and made warden of the east marches towards England. He built the castle of Avendale; and upon the accession of James III. was made Chancellor of Scotland. Andrew second Lord Avendale, having a feud with some of the neighbouring barons, and wishing to live at a distance from them, exchanged the barony of Avendale with Sir James Hamilton of Finnart, for the barony of Ochiltree in Ayrshire, in the year 1534, which is ratified by an act of Parliament in 1543; and Andrew Stuart allowed the style of Ochiltree, with the precedence of Avendale. It would appear, that Lord Castlestuart, of the kingdom of Ireland, considers himself the representative of this family, as he is now claiming the title of Lord Ochiltree. By the imprudence of Sir James Hamilton, the barony of Avendale soon came into the hands of his brother, the Earl of Arran, and has continued  
in



in the family of Hamilton ever since. The castle of Avendale stands upon a rocky eminence at the town of Strathaven, near a small water called Pomilion, which falls into the Avon about a mile below. It was furrounded by a strong wall, with turrets at certain distances, and the entrance was secured by a draw-bridge. This, and the castle of Arran, were alternately the residence of Ann Duchess of Hamilton, during the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell. This worthy Lady always remembered the attachment shown by her tenants and vassals in the days of her adversity, and paid an annual visit to this place at the celebration of the Lord's Supper, till she was prevented by the infirmities of old age. She died in the year 1716, after which the castle of Avendale was no longer kept in repair.—The names of some places, such as Kirkwood, Hawkwood, seem to indicate, that this district was once adorned with woods; of which there are no longer any vestiges, but what are common every where, large trunks of oak and birch buried in deep morasses. The names of places are all English, with a very few exceptions, such as Kype, Carnduff, Drumclog. This last place is famous for a rencounter between the Covenanters and a party of dragoons, in which the latter were defeated. On Sunday the 1st of June 1679, the Covenanters had assembled for divine service at Drumclog, to the number of about 300 armed men. That they might not be surprised by a sudden attack, they had placed a watch on Loudonhill, a remarkable eminence about a mile distant, commanding a view of the whole country. Captain Graham\* of Claverhouse, afterward Viscount of Dundee, being apprised

\* This gentleman was extremely obnoxious to the covenanters. A respectable heritor in this parish, whose grandfather was at Drumclog, remembers to have heard him tell, that he lay behind a hillock, and fired eight shots at Claverhouse. On the grave-stones of the people who fell on this and other occasions, some of which are in rhyme, he is designed *Bloody Graham of Claverhouse*.



prized of the meeting, marched, the morning of the same day, from Hamilton with his cavalry. They were spied by the watch shortly after they passed Strathaven\*, who ran and informed their brethren of the approach of the enemy. After prayer, by their minister Mr William Hamilton, who acted likewise as commanding officer, they drew up in order, took their station, and gave the soldiers a reception very different from what they expected. Thirty of them were killed: Captain Graham had his horse shot under him, and made a very narrow escape. The Covenanters lost only a few men. Their horses were a great incumbrance to the dragoons, the place of action being almost surrounded with swampy ground. Had the Covenanters pursued their advantage, it is believed that they might have cut the whole party to pieces. The success of the Covenanters, on this occasion, encouraged them to muster an army of 8000 men, about three weeks afterward, at Bothwell bridge, and dispute that passage with the King's forces, commanded by the Duke of Monmouth. Here, however, they were defeated with great slaughter, and 1200 of them taken prisoners. After the battle, the Duke marched his army into this parish, with the view, as was apprehended, of revenging the affair of Drumclog. But after remaining for a few days, during which the cavalry ate up most of the grain in the country, the army retired without doing any mischief. The men were under good discipline, and the Duke behaved, in every respect, with a generosity becoming his high rank.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—This parish is well watered, and needs only inclosing and shelter to make it an excellent

\* Strathaven is 7 miles from Hamilton, and Drumclog between 5 and 6 from Strathaven; so that the dragoons had a march of more than 12 miles before the engagement.



lent grazing country. Most of the low grounds have indeed been inclosed with hedge and ditch, but there are very few fences in the parish. The grassy soil is inimical to young thorns, and few people can be at the pains to weed them often enough. Perhaps it would be better to plant hedges of beech or laryx. Till the lands are inclosed with sufficient fences, the farmers cannot well turn their attention to green crops, a thing much to be wished. For want of these, their cattle are fed on oat straw and coarse hay for almost six months in the year. The consequence is, that they are quite dried up and emaciated before they get upon the grass in the month of May; and every body knows that cattle must be in good plight, before they can yield milk either of good quality, or in any considerable quantity. Shelter is also much wanted here. The Duke of Hamilton's estate in the parish consists of upwards of 11,400 acres: Were two or three hundred of these laid out in belts of plantation, as has been done in the parish of Hamilton, it would both beautify the scenery and mend the climate. The small plantations which have been made by some residing heritors, and the few trees which are about almost every farm-house, show that plantations will thrive here. Considerable improvements have been made of late years, by draining the wet grounds, and sowing them with Polish oats. A deep morass in the neighbourhood of Strathaven, which was not worth a shilling the acre, has thus been brought to let at a guinea. The grievance which the farmers here most complain of is the tax upon saddle-horses. Few of them can afford to keep a horse for the purpose of riding; yet if they mount a labouring horse on Sunday to go to church, they are charged. The rigorous execution of this act has done more towards souring their minds against Government, than all the seditious pamphlets that have been published.

N U M.



## NUMBER XXVI.

## PARISH OF MARYTON,

(COUNTY OF FORFAR, SYNOD OF ANGUS AND MEARNES,  
PRESBYTERY OF BRECHIN.)

*By the Rev. Mr JAMES WILSON.*

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*Boundaries, Estates, Extent, Air, &c.*

THIS parish is bounded on the N. by the river of Southesk and the bafon or back sands of Montrose; on the S. by the sea and the parish of Lunan. There are only now two estates here, Old Montrose and Dysart. Old Montrose was the property of the great family of Montrose, till the reign of Charles II. We then find it in the possession of the famous Earl of Middleton. Since that time it has passed through the hands of a great many, and is now the property of Sir David Carnegie, Baronet, of Southesk. From its name, one might be apt to imagine, that there had been a town here before the present town of Montrose was built; but of this there remains no tradition. Bonnyton, which is now joined to Old Montrose, was the seat of the family of Wood. It is only within these few



few years past that the remains of the old castle fell down, It had been regularly fortified, with a complete ditch around it, which still remains entire. Dyfart belongs to Thomas Carnegie, Esq; of Craigo, and was purchased not many years ago by his family. None of the heritors reside.—This parish contains altogether from 2500 to 3000 acres of land. The valued rent is L. 3000 Scots, and the real rent about L. 1700 or L. 1800 Sterling. The lands in general are not high rented. In the greatest part of this parish the lands lie very low, almost on a level with the sea; this, together with the fogs that rise from the basin of Montrose, makes the air damp. This parish often, especially in the spring months, when the easterly winds prevail is involved in a cloud, when it is bright sunshine a mile or two to the westward. Agues were very common here before the low grounds were drained; but since that event took place, the people are in general healthy, and many of them live to a good old age. It were to be wished that the lower classes could be prevailed upon to inoculate their children for the small-pox; but no arguments will persuade them to lay aside their absurd prejudices. If this mode were adopted, the lives of many children might be saved to the community.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls was then 633. This parish is not very populous, there being no villages in it, nor manufactures of any kind. The whole parish is divided into large farms; and these requiring only a stated number of people for their cultivation, any increase that may arise must go to other places for employment. Being so near the port of Montrose, a great many of the young men go to sea. There are no records of the number of inhabitants before the present incumbent was settled in 1778. In 1779, the number of



of people above 15 years of age was 369; in 1786, a period of 7 years, there were 367 people above 15 years of age, and 142 under 15, in all 509. In January 1793, another period of 7 years, the state of the population is as follows:

|                        |   |     |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| Under 10 years of age, | - | 139 |
| Between 10 and 20,     | - | 92  |
| — 20 and 30,           | - | 81  |
| — 30 and 40,           | - | 71  |
| — 40 and 50,           | - | 70  |
| — 50 and 60,           | - | 28  |
| — 60 and 70,           | - | 30  |
| — 70 and 80,           | - | 15  |
| — 80 and 90,           | - | 3   |
| Total,                 |   | 529 |

The increase since 1786 is 20; and the cause of it is, some of the principal tenants having sublet part of their lands. The average of the number of baptisms, as nearly as can be ascertained for 14 years past, is annually 18; marriages 5; and burials 12; but it is to be observed, that the register of baptisms, burials and marriages, is not so regularly kept as formerly, owing to the tax upon the registration, trifling as it is. The common people, not being compelled to pay it, rather choose to save 3 d. than to have either a baptism, burial or marriage, inserted in the register.

*Soil, Agriculture, &c.*—The soil in this parish is various, according to the situation. Upon the low grounds of Old Montrose it is a strong deep clay, commonly called in Scotland Carse land, admirably adapted for wheat. There is a small ridge of hills that runs through the parish from



E. to W. and divides Old Montrose from Dyfart. The soil upon these rising grounds is in general a very fine loam, which bears excellent crops of barley, turnips and grass. Upon the lands of Dyfart, as they lie higher, the soil is of a lighter quality than Old Montrose.—This parish is in a pretty high state of cultivation, and would have been much more so, were it not for the pernicious effects of long leases and low rents, leases let many years ago, and many years of them still to run. Improvement of land on a large scale, and to extent, did not take place in this part of the country till of late years, when the old leases were at an end, and the rents were raised. Farmers, like men of other professions, must be spurred on to industry by necessity. Those who possessed the old leases found that they could live as their fathers had done before them, and were satisfied with the day of small things. If they got a livelihood with ease, they were not anxious for wealth, when accompanied with exertion. It would be injustice, however, not to acknowledge, that some of the tenants who possess the old leases are now beginning to go on with spirit and industry: but that was not the case, till they were shown a good example; and perhaps, but from necessity, that example would never have been shown them. There is much fine land in this parish let at 10 s. the acre, and even under that; and yet the tenants are not more wealthy than their neighbours, who pay 30 s. the acre for land of no better quality. What can be the reason of this, but that the former are not so industrious as the latter, owing to long leases and low rents. Great as the improvements are, which have been made in this part of Scotland, within these few years past, yet the land is by no means arrived at that value to which it is capable of being raised.—There are two modes followed in cropping the strong clay land in this parish. The one is first a fallow, with 50  
bolls



bolts of lime shells to the acre, and well dunged; the land is then sown with wheat. The next crop is pease or beans; after that barley and grafs-seeds, generally red clover; 1 year in grafs, which is cut and given to the horses in the house. After the grafs, oats; then a fallow again, and so on. The other mode is first a fallow, then wheat; pease or beans after the wheat; then barley; then oats. After the oats, a fallow, and so on. There are likewise two modes followed in cropping the lighter soils. One is, the land is made free of weeds, and the soil reduced; it is then limed and dunged, and sown with turnips in the drill; after the turnips, barley and grafs-seeds; two years in grafs, the first cut for hay, the second for pasture; then a crop of oats; after this turnips, &c. according to the above rotation. The other mode is, the land having been 4 or 5 years in grafs is limed, and broken up for oats; after the oats barley, then a green crop; after that barley and grafs-seeds, when it is laid down for pasture, and remains in that state 4 or 5 years. The average returns of an acre are, wheat 10 bolts, barley 8 bolts, oats 8, beans from 8 to 14, pease from 4 to 10. The grain in general is of a very fine quality. An acre of turnips is worth from L. 4 to L. 5 Sterling. A good deal of flax was formerly raised in this parish, but that practice is now much given up, it having been found by experience not to be profitable. The husbandry is almost all carried on by horses, there not being above one oxen plough in the parish. Ploughs, with 2 strong horses in each, are universally used. The tenants breed a good many of their horses themselves. The farmers, upon the lighter soils, likewise rear a number of black cattle; but the strong land not being well adapted for pasture, the tenants keep but few cattle through the summer. In order to consume the straw, and make dung for the farm, they either purchase cattle in the autumn and set them



them off in the spring, or take into their straw yards cattle from the graziers, who pay so much a-head for them, according to their size \*.

*Advantages.*—This parish derives much advantage from its vicinity to the town of Montrose, where the farmer has always a ready market for every thing that he can raise, and where in return he can purchase whatever he wants for the use of his farm or his family. Another very great advantage is the open navigation from Montrose to Old Montrose, where coals are landed for fuel to the inhabitants, and likewise great quantities of lime both from Sunderland and Lord Elgin's lime-works, for manure. Vessels of 50 or 60 tons burden can, at stream tides, land with ease at the harbour of Old Montrose. A canal has been projected, and perhaps one day will be carried from thence to Brechin. This would complete the navigation between Brechin and Montrose, and would of course not only

\* *Price of Labour.*—The price of labour is very high. The wages of a common ploughman are from L. 8 to L. 10 Sterling a-year; a servant maid from L. 2, 10 s. to L. 3. A stout man will get from L. 1, 10 s. to L. 2 for the harvest; a woman from L. 1 to L. 1, 5 s. The wages of a common labourer are 1 s. a-day. Yet notwithstanding the high price of labour, the common people are not richer than formerly: Although their revenue be greater, they add nothing to their capital, seldom think of saving any thing to support them in their old age. All is spent upon the back and the belly; they eat and drink better, and are better clothed. The ploughman now despises the home-made suit of blue or grey, and all of the same piece: He comes to church on Sunday dressed in a coat of English cloath, a fancy vest, corduroy breeches, white thread stockings, plated buckles, &c. All of them wear hats; not a Scotch bonnet is to be seen. The dress of the women is as much changed as that of the men. The country lass makes her appearance at church, or a wedding, dressed in the manufactures of Manchester, Glasgow, and Paisley. Thus the improvement of the land is the enrichment of the kingdom, and the sail could not be spread without the assistance of the plough.



only be of singular advantage to both these towns, but likewise to all the adjacent country \*.

*Maryton-Law.*—Maryton-Law is a small eminence situated upon a rock upon the top of one of the hills formerly mentioned. It is evidently artificial, and probably in former times has been either an alarm post, as it commands a great extent of country, or a place where the great family of Montrose distributed justice to their vassals. From the top of it is one of the most beautiful prospects in Scotland. To the north, (close under the eye), is the rich and fertile country extending from Brechin to Montrose, on both sides of the river Southesk, where are interspersed a number of elegant gentlemens seats; a fine view of both towns, with the basin and harbour of Montrose, and in the back ground are the Grampian hills. To the east is the well cultivated parish of Craig, with a great expanse of the German

\* *Fisheries.*—In the river Southesk, which is the northern boundary of this parish, there is great plenty of fish, salmon, grilse, sea-trout, finnocks, and a variety of river-trout. In the month of May, a prodigious quantity of beautiful clear small trouts, called smouts, make their appearance. They are evidently the salmon-fry that were spawned in the autumn before, and are then going down the river to the sea, where they arrive at maturity. A vast variety of aquatic birds frequent the basin, or, as it is commonly called, the back sands of Montrose, especially in the winter season; such as wild geese, ducks of various sorts, and in amazing numbers; a variety of gulls, cormorants, sea-magpies, golden-eyes, curlews, herons, &c. &c. The wild geese arrive in great flocks about the end of October, and generally remain till March. They frequent the fields in the low grounds through the day, where they feed upon the wheat-stubble in autumn, and the green wheat in winter: They always return to the basin at night. The ducks, on the contrary, remain in the basin through the day; but when the night falls, they go to the land, and feed upon the barley-stubble fields. Both the geese and ducks are very fine birds for eating. In severe storms, of long continuance, there are likewise some swans in the basin, but they do not remain long. There are great plenty of partridges in this parish, and some quails, but they are rare: Hares are scarce, there being little cover.



man ocean. To the south is Lunan bay, the red head of Arbroath, and the prospect is terminated by the frith of Forth, and the coast of Lothian.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The manse was built 4 years ago, and is one of the best finished in the county. The stipend is 76 bolls of meal, 45 bolls of barley, and L. 19 Sterling in money. The glebe consists of about 6 acres of very good land. The King is patron.—The schoolmaster's salary is about L. 5 Sterling a year; and as the parish is small, his perquisites are not considerable. A new church was built last year, which is both elegant and commodious, and to the praise of the heritors be it spoken, not a farthing demanded for seat-rents; a practise by no means common in Scotland, but highly worthy of imitation.—The poor are maintained from the interest of a fund of about L. 500 Sterl. and the weekly collections, which are very trifling, owing to the greatness of the poors funds, the people not being very apt to give, when they know that there is little occasion for their charity. These great funds are a loss to any parish. They are the cause of a number of poor coming into it, when they know that they will be maintained. They tend to make the lower classes greedy and lazy, and to live beyond their incomes, and very careless about saving any thing to provide for a family, or to support them in old age. They likewise put a stop to that charity among the common people, which is the bond of affection between man and man, and which tends more than any thing else to humanize the mind.

*Manners.*—The people of this parish, except 5 or 6 individuals, are all of the Established religion, and very regular in their attendance on public worship. They are quiet and inoffensive, and mind their own business; and as there is but one alehouse in the parish, they are in general sober, not being much led into temptation.



NUMBER XXVII.

PARISH OF KIRKNEWTON,

(COUNTY OF EDINBURGH, SYNOD OF LoTHIAN AND  
TWEEDDALE, PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH).

*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM CAMERON.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Soil, &c.*

UNDER this title are comprehended two parishes, Kirknewton and East Calder, now within the bounds of the presbytery of Edinburgh, though formerly the latter belonged to the presbytery of Linlithgow, and was anciently called Calder Cleir \* and Calder Clericus. The union of these two parishes took place 40 years ago. A new church and manse, both very decent buildings, were then

\* The Earl of Morton takes his title of dignity from the lands of Mortoune, lying in this parish, and belonging to his Lordship, as appears from the minutes of the Scotch Parliament 14th March 1457—8, and from an instrument there referred to, in which are these words: "Tunc vero dictus Dominus Cancellarius, (Episcopus Brechen), declaravit dictum Dominum de Dalkeith, non intitulari debere in dicto comitatu pro terris de Mortoune, in dominio de *Niddisdale* existent; sed pro terris de Mortoune in Calder Cleir jacent."



then erected in a new and central situation. Calder, according to one etymology, seems to signify water and wood, from *coille*, "wood," and *dor*, "water." The name Kirknewton appears to be derived from a village so called near the old church, and about a quarter of a mile from the new one. The parish is about 4 miles broad, and 6 long from N. to S. On the N. it is bounded by the river Amond, which falls into the frith of Forth at Cramond; and on the S. it is washed by the water of Leith, which discharges itself into the sea at Leith. There is plenty of lime here of excellent quality, in different parts of the parish, which is carried to many miles distance all around. Several country gentlemen have lately formed an association, and opened a subscription, in order to explore the ground in this and some neighbouring parishes, in search of coal. This search is now making on the lands of Leith-head here, belonging to Mr Swanson. If this laudable and patriotic purpose succeed, it will prove a great benefit to this part of the country. But as good coal is at a considerable distance, it is hoped this disadvantage may be remedied in another way, as a canal is now projected and intended to pass through this parish between Edinburgh and Glasgow, which will provide these cities, and all the adjacent country with plenty of coal, limestone, iron, &c. of the best quality. An excellent coal, which is most generally used here, is brought from Benhaar, on the Glasgow road, 15 miles distant. Coal of an inferior quality is to be got in great plenty at the mines of Blackburn, Bathgate, and other places, at the distance only of 5, 6, and 7 miles to the S. and W. The price paid at the mine for coal is generally 4½d. a load, 6 of which are a common cart-load, from twelve to fourteen hundred weight, drawn sometimes by one, and sometimes by two horses. Such a cart-load from Benhaar costs 7s. Sterling. The appearance of the parish

is



is level and fertile towards the N. on the S. it is hilly, but not rocky or steeply mountainous.

*Agriculture.*—The green hills afford good sheep-pasture, and in several places might yield excellent green crops of potatoes, turnip, &c. if properly cultivated for this purpose. These crops begin now to be more generally raised than formerly, and the farmers to be better reconciled to them, though some of the lower classes and more ignorant are still averse to these valuable improvements, being wedded to their old absurd and unskilful practices. But the frequent failures and losses that attend new schemes attempted by more speculative and opulent farmers, to them appear sufficient reason for not too rashly changing the plans and practices of their forefathers, and giving up a sure, though moderate profit, for the uncertain hopes of unexperienced theorists. The culture of field-turnip and cabbage is but lately introduced here; and the Earl of Morton, who of 63 ploughgates in the parish possesses 28, seems at present very anxious to promote and encourage this plan of agriculture among his tenants. The rent of land, exclusive of the poorest outfield, is from 10 s. to L. 2 an acre. The English plough, with 2 horses, is most generally used, though some farmers still prefer the old Scotch plough, with 4 horses and a driver. Of late the rent of land is greatly increased. Farms that about 20 years ago let at 10 s. an acre, are now more than 20; and those which even 6 years ago paid L. 20 of rent, now let at L. 30. But the plan of husbandry is much better now than formerly, and the land hence greatly improved in value. The real rent of the parish within these few years, has consequently been raised several hundred pounds. It cannot at present, for particular reasons, be exactly ascertained. The rotation of crops is variable according to the va-



rious soils. The most common, in the richer grounds, is summer-fallow, wheat, pease, beans, barley, oats. Of late it has been found, that both wheat and barley have succeeded as well, this after turnip, and that after cabbage, as after a summer-fallow, when the ground is properly dressed. Rye grass and clover are sown with wheat, oats, flax, but most commonly with barley. Wheat has lately been introduced into the moors with promising success, where it never was seen or attempted before. A great deal of milk, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, veal, is daily exported and sold in the Edinburgh market. The real produce of the parish cannot be ascertained, as there is a great importation as well as exportation, chiefly to and from Edinburgh, of which no distinct account has ever been kept\*.

*Climate,*

\* *Labour and Wages.*—The want of cottagers and day-labourers is often smartly felt by the farmer, especially in harvest; and if their place were not supplied by the Highlanders, upon whom they so much depend for cutting down their crops, they would be reduced to the use of the scythe, or some such more expeditious method than that of the sickle. The first threshing machine in this parish was erected by Mr Waugh of Easter Newton. The use of these has lately become general in this country. The common wages of a day-labourer, for a man, are from 1s. to 1s. 2d. in summer, and 10d. in winter a-day; for a woman, 6d.; for an hired man-servant, from L. 6 to L. 10 a-year, with a pair of shoes, and a cart of coals, in the half year. If he live in his own house, he has 6½ bolls of meal, besides L. 1, 6s. for what is called kitchen-money. (This is an allowance of money, at the rate of 6d. a-week, in place of milk, butter, beer, &c.) He has also sometimes a cow's grass, with as much ground as may sow a firloft of barley. The wages of a maid-servant are generally L. 3 a-year. Masons and bricklayers receive from 1s. 8d. to 2s. a day; slaters, 2s. 6d.; tailors, 8d. with victuals. About 50 years ago butter sold at 4d. a-pound; a good lamb at 3s.; beef 1½d. and 2d. The poultry in rentals was valued at half-a-merk. All these articles are now more than doubled in price. The people, however, in general, enjoy a competent share of the comforts of life, and every man who is able to work, and who is industrious, may decently maintain himself and a family. In the year 1782 much distress would have ensued to the lower people, had it not been prevented by a liberal contribution of the heritors for their relief.



*Climate, Diseases.*—The air is remarkably pure and healthy. A native of this parish died in the neighbourhood some months ago, aged 106, having followed his usual occupation in the fields, and retained the full possession of his mental faculties till a few days before his death. The diseases chiefly prevalent are the rheumatism and fevers, occasioned by the poorer people living in cold damp houses, and resting after labour in wet clothes. People of better station are not so much liable to these distempers. When these fevers once begin, they often spread far and wide, as the people, from mistaken notions of sympathy and charity, crowd the house, and even the bed-room of the sick, which is kept as close often as possible. These catch and spread the infection, thinking that they do nothing amiss, and that no harm will befall them but by the special decree and interposition of Heaven.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster, the population in 1755 was 1157.

|                          |     |                        |      |
|--------------------------|-----|------------------------|------|
| Souls in 1786,           | 942 | House carpenters,      | 4    |
| — in 1792,               | 812 | Tailors, -             | 4    |
| Average of births,       | 26  | Smiths, -              | 4    |
| — of deaths,             | 19  | Single male servants,  | 67   |
| Inhabited houses,        | 175 | Ditto female servants, | 42   |
| Males, -                 | 395 | Farmers, - -           | 50   |
| Females, -               | 417 |                        |      |
| Under 6 years,           | 113 |                        |      |
| Students in divinity,    | 2   | Horses, - -            | 261  |
| Bachelors keeping house, | 21  | Black cattle, -        | 533  |
| Sectaries, -             | 277 | Sheep, -               | 1563 |
| Souls in two villages,   | 180 | Ploughs, -             | 64   |
| Masons, -                | 4   | Carts - -              | 85   |



The cause of depopulation here is chiefly owing to the near attraction of Edinburgh, to a monopoly of farms, and the use of two-horse ploughs, (by which means the farmer works with about half the number of servants he formerly employed), and the laying down so much ground in grass for hay, which, when the soil answers, is judged one of the most profitable crops. One cause of the uncommon number of sectaries is, that a Burgher meeting-house was several years ago erected in the parish, and another of the Antiburgher kind on the borders of it, which at their first erection were much crowded; but which, however, have not gained seven proselytes from the parish church for the last 7 years; they rather seem to be on the decline. These establishments must be a heavy burden upon poor people; but they are productive of worse consequences, in directly counteracting the design of Christianity, which is to make men live together as brethren; and in supporting superstition and fanaticism, which are mistaken by many for religion, and maintained with a violence and flaming zeal proportioned to the ignorance of their deluded votaries.

*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend consists of 105 bolls of victual, one half meal, and the other barley, with L. 48 Sterling of money, besides a glebe of 7 acres good arable land, which has been inclosed by the present incumbent. The Duke of Buccleugh and the Earl of Morton, formerly the separate patrons of East Calder and Kirknewton, are now vice patrons of the parish.—The school salary is L. 12 Sterling a year, with L. 2 belonging to the session-clerkship, together with the common perquisites of baptisms and marriages. The number of scholars is between 40 and 50. The children of poor parents are educated at the public expense. Some years ago, the schoolmaster being,  
through



through age and infirmity, unable to officiate, the heritors contributed L. 9 Sterling a-year, with some other perquisites, for his maintenance during life, and appointed another schoolmaster.—The number of poor that regularly receive parish charity is 12, and their proportion is from 2 s. to 4 s. a-month, intended only as a help to those who cannot entirely support themselves. The weekly collections, dues of mortcloths (palls), and a remainder of some funds which are now nearly exhausted, at present supply this charity. It is often found necessary also to grant occasional assistance to poor families in sickness and want. No person in the parish has been suffered to beg publicly, in the memory of man. In summer, all who are able to work in the fields, generally find employment, and can live very comfortably on their wages; but in winter, the women, who can often find no employment but spinning, are not able to earn more than 3d. or 4d. a-day, as there are no manufactures in the parish. This is a real loss in many respects, because both the old and young, who are unfit for the common labour in the fields, might be employed in some business of manufacture with much advantage, both to themselves and the public, and to the preventing of indolence and licentiousness.

*Manners.*—The people in general are sober and industrious, and that wild and gloomy fanaticism which formerly raged with such turbulent, unhallowed zeal, seems now, except among very few, over the whole country, as well as here, to wear a milder and brighter aspect, and the rancour of party-spirit is daily abating, as also that rage of schism which once prevailed, so hurtful to the peace of society, and to the interests of religion. More rational notions of religion are now entertained among all sects, and the doctrines of faith and morality are not unhappily separated,



rated, especially among the middle ranks of the people. These maintain much decency of character, with regard both to a religious deportment, and to honesty of manners. They are emerging from the gloom of ignorance, rudeness and superstition, and as yet are happily strangers to the vicious refinement, scepticism and licentiousness, which, from the example of the metropolis, have lately much infested the neighbourhood. Some loose and libertine principles, the poisonous spawn of a false philosophy and false patriotism, have recently corrupted the minds of half-learned wittlings and smatterers in science, who implicitly receive their opinions at second-hand. From these they have been caught by many among the most ignorant, the obvious tendency of which is to destroy the foundations of all civil and ecclesiastical government. When the lower people shall have learned to copy the manners and principles of some of their superiors, which they naturally do, the consequences to society must be fatal, as may be seen from the progress of modern refinement and philosophy. "He that has eyes to see let him see."

*Miscellaneous Remarks.*—Agriculture has lately made a rapid progress in this part of the country, and the appearance of the ground, particularly towards the south side of the parish, which was formerly bare and barren, is now greatly altered both in soil and climate, by means of the improvements and thriving wood-plantations that shelter and adorn the higher parts. The best and most extensive improver in this respect here, is Mr Maconochie of Meadow-bank, who has greatly beautified the more unfertile parts of his estate with complete inclosures for pasture, and with belts of plantation, variegated with every kind of wood suited to the soil. The roads and bridges are brought into good repair, and great improvements are daily making  
upon



upon them. The statute labour is commuted at the rate of 18s. the ploughgate. The largest farms let at L. 150 and L. 200, and are generally inclosed, except the hilly sheep-farms. There are 12 heritors, two only of whom reside constantly in the parish, some of the rest occasionally. The valued rent is L. 3760 Scotch. From the manse, a prospect opens to the eye one of the richest and most beautiful to be seen in Scotland. On the east it is terminated by a full and picturesque view of Arthur's seat, the metropolis, and its venerable castle, which is on a level with the manse, and which seems as if only about 5 or 6 miles distant. On the north appear the Ochil hills, the frith of Forth, a great part of Fife, and several of the coast towns; and on the south arise the Pentland hills. From a rising ground, a few yards distant from the manse, a part of 13 counties may be seen, and a stretch of country of about 100 miles, almost from Berwick to Greenock. The great Glasgow road from Edinburgh passes through the parish.—About 50 years ago, it was usual for the most substantial farmers to appear at church and market in home-spun cloth and plaiden hose. Now their menial servants and cottagers are equipped in English broad cloth, silk and satin. This turn for finery is a great loss to them, as they live up to their wages, notwithstanding their being so high. Thus they enter into a married state, with their whole substance upon their back, especially women; and when sickness, or any misfortune prevents their daily labour, they immediately sink into the depth of poverty. It is generally observed, that the inhabitants of villages are more licentious and dissipated, than those who live in separate and sequestered hamlets, and are employed in agriculture. The almost universal use of tea and spirits, of an inferior quality, tends greatly to hurt both the health and morals of the lower people.—Some stone pillars in the form of a cross, and appearances of  
Druidical



Druidical circles, are to be met with here ; and from a copious spring of excellent water near the manse, several old coins have been dug, the offerings presented to its presiding genius.

*Eminent Men.*—The celebrated Dr Cullen was proprietor of the estate of Ormiston-hill ; and he lies interred in the church-yard of Kirknewton. The Doctor's great talents as a professor, as a physician, and as a philosopher, are well known and universally acknowledged in every part of the world. Other qualifications, however, he possessed in an eminent degree, though in these his fame has not been so much extended. He was a great master in the scientific branches of husbandry ; a consummate botanist ; and possessed a full-formed and correct taste in the fine arts. These attainments appeared conspicuous in his operations at Ormiston-hill. In the year 1758, the Doctor, after finishing his course of chymistry, delivered to a number of his particular friends, and favourite pupils, nine lectures on the subject of agriculture. In these few lectures, he, for the first time, laid open the true principle concerning the nature of soils, and the operation of manures. These were discoveries entirely his own, and which have since been made known to the world by a variety of channels, though without any notification of the source from whence they proceeded. The justness of these principles he demonstrated by his practice on the lands of Ormiston-hill, which, though naturally of an ungrateful soil, rendered worse by immemorial bad management, and situated in an unfavourable climate, he raised in a few years to a surprising degree of culture and fertility. Early in life he was a proficient in botany, and was the first person in Scotland who understood the Linnæan system, and recommended the study of it to his pupils, at a time when it met with much opposition from others.



thers. In his gardens and pleasure grounds at Ormiston-hill, he formed an extensive collection of rare trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. The cultivation of these, and the accurate determination of their species, afforded him always an agreeable relaxation from the more serious studies and labours of his profession. He was likewise remarkable for his critical knowledge and correct judgment in architecture and painting. The hall of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh is an example of the former, which was planned when he was President, and according to his directions. The front of this building may be considered as the most chaste and beautiful morsel of Greek architecture, that has yet appeared in Scotland. The acuteness of his eye, and of his mind, in discerning the beauties and blemishes in painting, was well known to his intimate friends. This talent rendered him a superior judge in the disposition of grounds, and in the arrangement of rural ornaments. When he first entered to the possession of Ormiston-hill, every thing about the place was in such a ruinous state, so comfortless and so unpromising, that he placed over the front-door of the house, EST ULUBRIS: But, by great attention and good taste, he soon made it a commodious and pleasant residence. While he resided here, he was accessible at all times to his neighbours, and testified the utmost readiness to give his valuable advice to the poor *gratis* on every occasion of distress; and attended to them as anxiously as to those of the first rank in the realm, for whom he daily prescribed. In this he seemed to be of the opinion of his famous predecessor Dr Boerhaave, who used to say, that the poor were his *best patients*, for God is their paymaster.



## NUMBER XXVIII.

## PARISH OF DRY'S DALE,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF  
LOCHMABEN.)

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS HENDERSON.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Rivers, Soil, Climate.*

**D**RY'S DALE is obviously a corruption or contraction of *Dryfesdale*; so called, from its lying partly on the banks of the rivulet Dryfe. The parish lies about the middle of Annandale, and is in  $55^{\circ} 08''$  N. Lat. and  $3^{\circ}$  W. Long. It is about 7 miles long, from N. to S.; at the southern extremity only a mile broad; at the centre about 6 miles; and at the northern end 3; exhibiting a surface of nearly 1100 acres. The western and southern parts are generally flat, and cultivated. The upper or northern parts are hilly, and mostly in pasture. There is nearly one half of the parish cultivated. The Annan, dividing it from Lochmaben, washes it on the W. and S. for upwards of 6 miles, abounding in rainy seasons with excellent salmon, from the Solway Firth, to the supply of the Lockerbie, Lochmaben



Lochmaben and Dumfries markets, and on some occasions to the English markets, besides a variety of sea trout, herling, skellies, eels, pike and burn trout. The Dryfe runs through this parish for about 3 miles on the N. W. part, emptying itself into the Annan in a direct line, between the market town of Lockerbie and the Royal Burgh of Lochmaben. It rises in the northern end of Hutton parish, and runs a course directly south about 11 miles. It is, in moderate weather, a small rivulet, clear and pure, having in its pools plenty of trout, and some small salmon, &c.; but in rainy weather, it comes down in swells, suddenly and rapidly, *driving* all before it that comes in its way; hence the name, overspreading its holms, and increasing the Annan. The gently rising hills on each side are cultivated, or exhibit a beautiful verdure, and rich pasture for cattle and sheep. The Currie and Milk touching it on the E. and S. E. also abound in trout and small salmon. The Currie is a small stream, about 5 miles long from N. to S. deriving its name from its source, being a *Corrie*, a Celtic term, signifying a confined cleugh or glen, of which sort is the spring of the Annan, vulgarly called the "Annan Peck," or the Marquis of Annandale's "Beef Stand." Its banks and contiguous farms afford the richest pasture, and as rich crops of corn in favourable seasons, as any high lying part of the country. It empties itself into the Milk, at the eastern extremity of the central line of this parish. The Milk, a limpid rivulet, has on each side very rich land for arable, but peculiarly for pasturage to milk cows, hence the name. It touches this parish only for about a mile and a half, though its course being partly west, and then south, is not less than 12 miles, when it discharges itself into the Annan opposite the Watch Tower of *Repentance* in Cummertrees parish. Along the banks of the Dryfe and Annan, there is a tract  
of



of rich holm land, the washings of both waters for time immemorial, consisting of deep loam, very productive under proper culture. The other cultivated lands are generally light and dry, lying on a slatey and ragged rock, or gravel, which, with lime, marl and dung, produce very well. The hilly parts are generally dry, green, with very little heath, and fit for cattle or sheep. The air is dry and healthy, because the country has a fine open exposure to the S. and W. The spring in favourable seasons is early. The summer sometimes extremely hot. Harvest soon on the western side. Winter stormy and cold. High winds, heavy rains, but seldom any continuation of snow, though of frost in some seasons for upwards of one, two, or three months together, which is always reckoned a preparation for, and a prognostication of a kindly spring, a nourishing summer, and plentiful harvest. Peats are scarce, sometimes sold for 2s. 3s. and even 4s. the single cart-load. Coals are brought from Sanquhar in the upper part of Nithsdale, Tindall, Fell, and Archerbeck in Cumberland, at the distance of 30 and 40 miles, and sold at 9s. the cart load in Lockerbie; an insuperable bar to rising manufactures at present, and principally occasioned by the unproductive and impolitical tax on coals over the Solway Frith, which is said and expected soon to be taken off there, and also in similar situations in Scotland, which would be a vast benefit to the country. No epidemical diseases are peculiar to this parish. The common duration of human life is 60 years, though some advance to 70, 80, and 90.

*Population, &c.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population then was 1097. The number of inhabitants now is about 1600; 700 in the thriving town of Lockerbie, and 900 in the country part of the parish. There are about



40 births, upwards of 30 deaths, and 12 marriages annually. Lockerbie being a market and post town, and the most noted place of the parish, merits a particular description. It is so called, as many other places on the English border, and up and down Annandale, Eskdale and Nithsdale, of the same termination, because the term *Bie*, being Celtic, signifies a "station or place of strength." Lockerbie had been a place or tower of safety, situated between and almost surrounded by two lochs or lakes, now drained; the one, on the east side of the intervening ridge, is converted into a rich bog meadow, in the bottom of which is a deep bed of shell marl, but, on account of the stagnating water, difficult to be wrought; the other, on the west side, is partly meadow and partly moss, lying also on marl, very deep. The town consists of one long street from N. to S. in extent about half a mile, and another, at a right angle to the E. about a quarter of a mile. There are about 150 inhabited houses; 2 fairs, and 10 markets yearly. The fairs are at Lammas and Michaelmas, when moderate tolls are levied by the proprietor, amounting only to about L. 16 Sterling a-year. At the 10 markets all are free. During the course of the year, there are sold for England upwards of 50,000 yards of linen and woollen cloth, and at the Lammas fair about 20,000 lambs, partly to be wintered in the neighbourhood, but principally for England, and all the other articles usually sold at the ordinary markets in their proper seasons \*. About 60 years since, there were

\* The Lammas fair is upon the 2d of August O. S. excepting Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, and in that case, on the Tuesday following; the Michaelmas fair is upon the 2d of October O. S. excepting Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, and in that case, on the Tuesday following. The 10 markets are on the 2d Thursday O. S. in January, February, March, April, May. Third Thursday in June, called the midsummer market. The next is 14 days after the Michaelmas fair, if on a Thursday, or otherwise



were very few houses in Lockerbie; but at that period, the late laird of Lockerbie, with consent of his then surviving father, granted many feus of house steadings and yards, on the west side of the street, and long tacks of the same sort on the east side, for fourscore times 21 years. Since that time the town has been yearly enlarging. There are no public manufactures established as yet; but a great deal of foreign and inland flax is given out to be spun from the shops. I remember one of them once told me, he has had in the course of a year more than 500 spinsters of factory-lint on his books, partly from the country, and partly from the town, the yarn being exported to Kendal, and other manufacturing towns in England. There are in Lockerbie, 12 large shops, 6 less ones, 2 surgeons and apothecaries, 2 midwives, 2 writers, 2 messengers, 6 weavers, 10 tailors, 5 wrights, 3 blacksmiths, 1 nailer, one principal inn, where carriages and horses may be hired, 3 lesser inns, 2 watchmakers, 2 bakers, 3 butchers, 2 barbers, 11 carters, 3 wheel-wrights, 1 gardener, 2 claggers, 2 saddlers, 2 tanners, and in the town and parish jointly, there are about 80 ploughs, 3 millers, and 200 horses. The parish-church stands upon

wife on the Thursday thereafter; the next, 3 weeks after the last, called the Martinmas market; the next 14 days thereafter; and the 10th, on the Thursday before Yule, or Christmas O. S. The hiring market for servants for the summer half year is in April. For the winter ditto, is the 14 days one after Michaelmas, and the aforesaid, for the greatest part of Annandale. At those hiring markets, the wage of a man for the half year is about L. 3. 10s. of a woman L. 1. 15s. but varying according to circumstances. In the markets, and at the proper seasons, there is a vast variety of young cattle, cows, horses, &c. exposed to sale. There is an old square tower still standing, called the *Mains* which was the site or mansion-place of the ancient family of the Johnstons of Lockerbie, being a branch of the old Laird Johnston's of Lochwood, the ancestors of the late Marquis of Annandale. Lockerbie lies 12 miles E. from Dumfries, 4 from Lochmaben, 16 miles S. from Moffat, 16 miles W. from Langholm, 12 miles N. from Annan, and 6 from Ecclefechan.



upon an eminence, at the head or north end of the town. It is a neat edifice, handsomely fitted up in the inside, and may contain about 750 people. It was built in the year 1757, being at that time removed from Dryfeside,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile north of Lockerbie. It is said, that in the year 1670, Dryfe swept away the original church and burying ground, which was in the middle of the holm, now called the *Sand Bed*; after this, in 1671, the late church and burial ground was established at a small distance, and upon the skirt of the present glebe, or Kirkhill, thought to be perfectly secure from the swells of Dryfe; but the water in process of time, approached the new burying ground, carrying a good deal of it away, and threatening the church itself, verifying the old saying or prophecy of Rymer,

“ Let spades and shoels do what they may,

“ Dryfe will have Dry'sdale kirk away.”

Partly from the above circumstances, but principally through the influence of the family of Lockerbie, the church was removed to the town, for the ornament and convenience of the place and parish. There is an Antiburgher meeting house at the south or foot of the town, established about 50 years since, the only one in Annandale, and draws only a moderate congregation and annual income from the whole dale.

*Lakes, Cleughs, or Glens.*—Turnmoor Loch affords a sufficient quantity of water for supplying the corn and barley mills of that name, but hath nothing peculiar, excepting its being an excellent haunt for wild ducks, geese, and other fowls in the winter-season. The Cauldron is a very deep lake in the midst of a morass, never freezing, abounding with pike and eels, being the remains of the old water-gate  
of



of Dryfe, and in which there is plenty of shell marl, but expensive in the working. Half a mile south of this, and in the same tract, there is a vast fund of excellent and workable marl, belonging to the Duke of Queensberry, and which is extremely beneficial to his Grace's tenants, costing only 3 d. the cart load, and 30 cart load being sufficient for an acre. St Mary's Cleugh, at the north end of the parish, separating it from Sibbaldbie, is very deep, and its steep sides are covered with the most thriving plantations of oak and ash, some of the latter being 60 feet high, plenty of hazle, and nuts in the season. The Bishop Cleugh, so called from its being old kirk-lands, has nothing remarkable. The Scale Cleugh, on the east side of the parish, is very deep, and its steep banks are covered with hazle and brushwood. There are other cleughs, but none remarkable.

*Antiquities.*—On the holm of Dryfe, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile below the old church-yard, are two very aged thorn trees, with a tumulus at their base, called *Maxwell's Thorns*, because they point out the place of the remarkable fight on Dryfesands, between the Maxwells of Nithsdale and the Johnstons of Annandale \*. There are vestiges of strong towers at Old Walls,

\* The particulars are: On 7th December 1593, the Lord Maxwell, warden of the western marshes, having, in conjunction with the then Lairds of Dumlanrig and Closeburn, collected 2000 men in arms, marched into Annandale to besiege the Laird Johnston's house of Lochwood, and through deadly spite to extirpate *him* and all his name. Accordingly, early on the morning, the Laird Maxwell came to Lockerbie, expecting to find the Johnstons, vassals of the Lochwood family, at home; but being disappointed, burnt the house of Nether Place, the residence of the Laird of Lockerbie's brother, and afterwards returned to his party at Dryfesands. It so happened, that Annandale Johnston soon appearing with only 40 horses, engaged 80 of the enemy, put them to flight pursuing a certain length, and then, through design, suddenly retreating, were followed by the whole body of the enemy, with Lord Maxwell at their head, till they came to the Torrwood  
on



Walls, Kirktown-mains, Nether-place, Myrehead, and Daltonhook. There are evident remains of 8 camps or forts, some square or Roman, others circular or British, and mostly built on eminences, because about 2000 years since (their age) the sides of the eminences or hills had been covered with growing wood, and the present flat or low lying and holm lands in Annandale had partly been a morafs, or under water; hence we find, that the Roman roads were generally made on rising ground, when it could be got. The most remarkable are two, the one British, and the other Roman, facing each other, and separated by a narrow morafs. They are built on two hills E. of the village *Bengall*, the name alluding to the forts on the hills, signifying the hill of the Gauls. Old pieces of armour and warlike weapons have frequently been found in them, and not many years since, the skeleton of a man was found in a cairn, on the intervening morafs, thought to have laid there for some ages, and some fragments of his dress or accoutrements were carried off as a curiosity, particularly his sandals, curiously wrought and bound around the mouths with leathern thongs, were conveyed into England for the Oxford Museum. There is another, a Roman fort, beautifully situated upon a large eminence, in the centre of the united and extensive holm of Dryfe and Annan, called the Gallaberry, or the burgh and station of the Gauls, for the term *Berry* is of Saxon origin, signifying "burgh, mansion, or strength."

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on the S. E. side of Dryfe, whence 400 Annandalians sprung, flew upon the surprised enemy, after a short, but bloody struggle, put them into confusion, and being joined by a few Scots, from Eskdale, under the Laird of Buccleugh, completed the victory, killing upwards of 700, among whom was the Lord Maxwell himself, and pursued the routed enemy to the Gotterbie Ford of the Annan, where many were drowned. A great number that escaped, were marred or hurt on the face during the fight; hence the common saying, "A Lockerbie lick." It is singular that so few defeated so many.



The most entire is a British one at Dry'sdale gate, occupying about 2 acres of ground, commanding a most extensive prospect; its counterpart is a large Roman one about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile due E. interrupted by a moor, being the place celebrated for the bloody battle between the army of Julius Agricola, and the forces of Corbredus Galdus, the 21st king of the Scots, about the end of the 1st century. There are plain traces of the great Roman road, from the borders of England up to the vast encampments on the neighbouring beauteous and conspicuous round green hill of Burn'swork, and thence crossing this parish at Lockerbie to Dry'sdale gate, and up to the Gallaberry above mentioned, where it divided, one branch leading up through Annandale, by Moffat, to Tweeddale and Clydesdale; the other branch crossing the Annan, touched an entire and beautiful double fort on the northern margin of one of the Lochmaben lakes, called the *Woody Castle*, thence passed up the west side of the water of Ae, through Nith'sdale to the west country.

*Hills, Quarries, &c.*—Upon the banks of the Currie, there is an eminence called Currie Law, the term signifying a summit commanding a large and deep view below. There is a range of beauteous green hills running from N. to S. for about 3 miles, dividing the Highland from the low part of the parish. The Highland or outerly part, had been once a parish by itself, called *Little Hutton*, in contrast to the large parish of Hutton conterminous. The church and burying ground had been at Halldykes, for in the garden, human bones are frequently dug up; but there is neither record nor tradition of the time of its annexation to Dry'sdale. Besides this church of Little Hutton, there were two other places of public worship in the parish, *viz.* The chapel of Beekton, supposed to belong to the Knight's Templars, lying  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile N. W. of Lockerbie, where the traces  
of



of graves are still manifest, and at which there is a most copious and excellent spring well. There is also the vestige of the chapel at Quaas  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile W. of Lockerbie, the font-stone of which serves for the market cross of Lockerbie to this day. The most lofty and beautiful hill, (for there are no mountains in the parish,) is *Whitewynd* or *White Woolen*, carpetted with an unvaried green, being an excellent pasturage for pets or unlaid sheep, hence the name. This hill is of considerable heighth and steepness; on its summit there is a spacious plain, in the centre whereof is a mound or mote, where a fire used to be kindled to warn the country of the incursions of the English borderers. From this top, there is a most extensive and enchanting prospect of Annandale, Eskdale, the English border, Solway Frith, Irish Sea, Isle of Man, part of Nith'sdale, and Galloway. At the southern end of the parish, there is a limestone quarry, which produces a coarse, dark-coloured, but strong lime for land. There is some freestone at Old Walls, but too soft for durable use. There is plenty of whin and rag stone in the neighbourhood of Lockerbie, which, when skilfully built, makes excellent and beautiful walls. Free hewn stone comes from the upper end of Lochmaben parish, about 4 miles distant.

*Cattle, Sheep, &c.*—There is a great number of black cattle bred in the parish, particularly in the Highland part. A good deal of butter and cheese made. In the neighbourhood of Lockerbie, the grazing of a milk cow is L. 1, 10 s. a-year. Skimmed milk is sold for 1 d. the Scotch pint, butter at 8 d. and 9 d. the pound, new cheese at 3 d. the pound, and old cheese from 5 s. to 8 s. the stone, heavy weight, being 24 ounces to the pound. The farmers preferring black cattle to sheep, there is only one or two sheep stocks in the parish, yet there are a great number of pets and  
3
lambs



lambs, and hogs wintered, in all amounting to about 1200 \*. Black cattle, horses, sheep and wool, have been rising in their price for several years past. The wool sold at the Lockerbie markets comes from the upper part of Annandale and Eskdale, and is from 4 s. to 10 s. the stone. Unlaid or pet wool, is from 15 s. to L. 1, 1 s. the stone. The common people are generally clothed in home manufacture, from the laid sheep wool, at the rate of 2 s. 6 d. 3 s. and 4 s. the yard, for the Scotch ellwand is now universally laid aside. Every family is a small factory for both linen and woollen cloth. There are a great many dyers and dressers of cloth, also bleachers, in this part of the country.

*Roads, Woods, &c.*—The great post and turnpike road from London to Edinburgh and Glasgow, runs through Lockerbie and this parish. The southern mail coach arrives at the post-office here every evening, and the northern ditto every morning. The time of communication between London and Lockerbie (336 miles) is only about 50 hours. Along this road in the spring, but especially in the end of harvest, vast droves of black cattle from the North and West Highlands pass into England, to the number of about 20,000 annually, prices from L. 3 to L. 7 each, in order to be fatted in the Norfolk fens and other places, and supply the London and other markets, making the most delicious meat, vastly preferable to the large and rancid Irish horned bullocks. About 50 cart loads of merchant goods pass weekly to and from Glasgow, and that vicinity, mostly of the cotton sort. The private roads in this parish are getting into

\* The beasts of the wild kind are foxes, hares, badgers, polecats, weasels, hedgehogs, adders, snakes, otters. There are moorfowl, red and black, partridges, &c.; also geese, ducks, herons, teals, snipes, plovers, woodcocks, blackbirds, crows, magpies, thrushes, wrens, lapwings, kites, hawks, cuckoos, swallows, cranes, pigeons, sparrows, linnets, larks, goldfinches, sea-gulls, and robin-red-breasts.



into excellent repair, owing to the conversion of the statute labour of the farmers and householders into a pecuniary assessment, by act of Parliament 1777, producing in this parish annually L. 45; which, by the judicious management of the commissioners in general, and peculiarly by the ability and activity of William Stewart, Esq; factor to Lord Hopetoun, as succeeding the late Marquis of Annandale, the only residing justice of the peace and acting commissioner of supply in the parish, has been properly expended, and contributed to their improvement beyond expectation. In consequence of this melioration, lime carriage for the improvement of land is greatly facilitated, and a spirit of agricultural improvement prevails, though the lime is brought at 10 miles distance. The new mode of farming, by rotation of crops, and subdividing and inclosing by stone fence, hedge, and ditch, and planting trees on the hedge-rows, takes place. There are but few woods in the parish. There are some new and thriving plantations of common firs on Lord Hopetoun's and Lord Mansfield's lands, and some old strips along the cleugh sides and banks of the waters, and particularly there is a large plantation round the mansion-house of Halldikes, Whitewynd, Rosebank, and Robert-hill, and some infant plantations rising on the estate of Lockerbie; but it must be acknowledged, that this part of the country is defective and naked in this particular, though it now seems to be on the mending hand.

*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The stipend is L. 77, and the glebe, though upwards of 20 acres, is not worth above L. 8 yearly; because it is generally bad land. The manse is a new and neat building, standing on the summit of the old Kirkhill, on the side of Dryfe, contiguous to the old churchyard, in an open part of the country, and is the most conspicuous and beauteous situation in Annandale, commanding a  
most



most extensive and enchanting view, terminated by the towering, though far distant mountain of *Skiddaw* beyond the Solway frith, in Cumberland, on the south; by the lofty mountains of Hartfell and Queensberry, at the head of Annandale, on the north; and across the rich and widely extended vale of Annandale, in some places 4, in others 8 miles over. The waters of Dryfe, Annan, Kinnel, and Ae, uniting their kindred streams in the centre of the vale. In summer and harvest it is delightful indeed to see such a rich variety of lofty mountains and deep vallies, of green hills and growing dales, of winding rivers and rivulets, of rich pastures and richer crop-lands, all around. The royal burgh of Lochmaben is in full and distinct view across the Annan to the west. The town clock is heard, and the Castle loch, a sheet of 204 acres of water, with the castle ruins on a peninsula on the south side, is seen. The prospect is beautified and variegated with a great number of gentlemen's seats and plantations on all hands; such as the Kirkwood, Denbie, Whitecroft, Rammercales, Holmains, Newmains, Fourtowns, Halleaths, Castlemains, Lochmaben, Ellshieshields, Riggheads, Todhillmoor, Kirkmichael place, Hillside, Balgray, and above all the new and elegant palace belonging to Lord Hopetoun at Raehills on the Annandale estate. The crown is patron. The parish, in the 13th century, by King Robert Bruce, was given as a menial church to the Archbishoprick of Glasgow, and also the neighbouring parish of St Mungo.—There is an established parish-school, with the usual salary of 100 merks, and the interest of L. 80 of mortified money, together with the common school-fees. It is to be regretted, that too small encouragement is afforded to schoolmasters in Scotland, a class of men extremely useful, if able and faithful. There are several private schools also.—The poor are sometimes upwards of 20 that receive supply from the kirk-session, the ordinary collections at the church,



church, with fines, and the annual rent of L. 65 of mortified money, amount to about L. 18 yearly. This, together with the alms afforded by the householders, is amply sufficient to supply the necessitous poor; but there is a vast influx of vagrants and beggars from distant places, notwithstanding the activity of the Justices of the Peace in sending many to the house of correction at Dumfries. Poors rates would be an unnecessary and heavy burden on this part of the country. The people are very liberal to their own poor, and perhaps too much so to strangers.

*Heritors, Agriculture, &c.*—There are only 4 small residing heritors, with the numerous body of feuars and long tacksmen in Lockerbie. The great and non-residing proprietors are the Duke of Queensberry, Earl of Hopetoun, Earl of Mansfield, Lady Douglass of Killhead for Lockerbie, Mr Harries of Hildikes, and Mr Johnston of Barnhill, besides 6 small non-residing heritors. There are upwards of 60 farms from L. 25 to L. 100 rent, and some few above that sum; the arable land is in general about 13s. 4d. the acre, and Highland pasture about 2s. and 2s. 6d. The inclosed parks around Lockerbie give from 17s. 6d. to double that sum of yearly rent. The gross rental of the parish is L. 3400, and the valuation is 7194½ merks. The crops are oats, barley, pease, potatoes, turnips, flax, some hemp and rye, and wheat, with sown grasses in rotation. A considerable quantity of barley is exported at port Annan from this parish to Whitehaven and Liverpool for malting, also oats and potatoes. A great many swine are fatted and sold at the weekly market of Lockerbie during the season. About 200 are annually fed in the parish, from 10 to 20 stones each, and give from 3s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. the stone, and cured and dried hams are about 6d. the pound. Farmers make their rents partly from their barley and ba-  
con



con exported, and from oats raw or manufactured into meal, and from the breeding of black cattle and some for horses. As the grain here is of the best quality, it commands the highest price. The price of labour is greatly on the rise, particularly in harvest; reapers getting 1 s. the day with their victuals, and 1 s. 6 d. without them; but at the other seasons labourers are much cheaper, being in winter 6 d. and in spring and summer 8 d. and 9 d. the day with victuals.

*General Character, and Miscellaneous Observations.*—The people are honest, sober, industrious in their respective occupations; well affected to the present government, both ecclesiastical and civil; peaceable and pious, regular in attending church ordinances on the Lord's day, are well acquainted with the principles of Christianity, are devoid of bigotry and hypocrisy, are moderate and humane, and delight to favour one another. Even in the town of Lockerbie, where dramming sometimes does prevail, especially about the market times, there has not been a fight or quarrel worth mentioning for these 11 years past, the time of the incumbent's ministry, nor for as long before that, as he has been informed. This is a proof of the civilization of the people; and peculiarly to the praise of the fair sex, if men are sometimes seen drunk, women never are, neither at markets, nor on any other occasion. Marriages are early and fruitful, there being few bachelors beyond 25 years of age. This parish hath produced several eminent, learned, and mercantile men, who have travelled to the East and West Indies, and successfully obtained fortunes. The principal diversion or amusement is curling on the ice in the winter, when sometimes scores of people assemble on the waters, and in the most keen, yet friendly manner, engage against



against one another, and usually conclude the game and day with a good dinner, drink, and songs. The people are healthy and robust. The parish is improving in agriculture annually, and increasing in the number of inhabitants; but especially in the town of Lockerbie, which hath increased upwards of 150 within these 10 years past. The dress, diet, language, and manners, are daily mending, and vastly superior to some of the neighbouring and country parishes.

Extent 20, 800.

### NUM.

The extent is about 2 English miles in length, and 2 in breadth, and it contains about 4000 acres, most of which have been inclosed, and above 200 acres inclosed in a thriving way. One of the greatest extent of to acres on the estate of Hays, was among the earliest planted in this country, and is now cutting down and filling to good account. On the same estate is lately planted another inclosure, not so extensive as the former, but is stock'd with a variety of plants of different kinds of wood, &c. About the middle of the parish, there are two ranges of hills, mostly green. They form an old to have been laboured within 20 yards of the top, but now the



## NUMBER XXIX.

PARISH OF BOURTIE,  
(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY OF  
GARIOCH).

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS SHEPHERD.*

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*Extent, Soil, &c.*

**I**TS extent is about 4 English miles in length, and 2 in breadth, and it contains about 4000 acres, most of which have been measured, and above 600 acres inclosed. Some of these inclosures are planted with firs, and generally in a thriving way. One of the greatest extent, of 50 acres, on the estate of Barra, was among the earliest planted in this country, and is now cutting down and felling to good account. On the same estate is lately finished another inclosure, not so extensive as the former, but is stocked with a variety of plants of different kinds of wood besides that of firs. About the middle of the parish, there are two ranges of hills, mostly green. They seem of old to have been laboured within 50 yards of the top, but now  
the



the higher parts are neglected. The ground upon the skirts, and at the bottom of these hills, is wet and spongy; later in harvest by 10 days than the earliest parts of the parish, and seems more suited for grass than grain. The lands lying to the W. and to the E. of these hills are generally of a strong stiff soil, with a clay bottom, pretty fertile, but much pestered with large stones, both above and below the surface. About 20 years ago, our country did not breed cattle of sufficient bulk and strength to labour the ground. They were mostly brought from the south, particularly from Fifeshire. In a few years, by hard labour, they were worn out, and became unfit for service; and as the farmer had not the means of fattening them, he very often sold them for a third part of what they cost him. The case is now much altered to the better. The farmer brings up oxen able for his work, sells them or fattens them when they begin to be upon the decline, and in this way is rather a considerable gainer than a loser upon his work cattle.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population was then 525. The number of inhabitants, by an exact list in 1771, was 560. It is now only 450; the decrease is principally owing to the monopoly of farms, and the scarcity of mofs. Of the present inhabitants, 2 are Seceders, 10 Episcopalians, and 6 Quakers, the rest attend the Established Church.

*Rents.*—One farmer possesses nearly what employed 4; each of whom yoked 10 oxen. The proprietor took these lands under his own management for a few years, inclosed and limed a considerable part of the grounds, built an excellent dwelling-house, substantial and commodious office-houses,



houses, and let the whole to one gentleman, at rather more than double the rent the lands formerly gave. The rent is now about L. 185 Sterling. Another farm rents L. 105 Sterling. The rest of the rents of the parish are from L. 40 down to L. 7 Sterling. The whole rent of the parish is about L. 1000 Sterling, the valued rent L. 2501 Scots.

*Mode of Cultivation.*—Several of the tenants yoke 10 oxen in one plough; however, the new husbandry has been practised by some of them for several years, and is daily increasing. There are about 50 acres of turnip, and 250 of sown grass. The grain generally sown is bear and oats, few pease or lint-feed; and there are as many potatoes raised as serve the inhabitants.

*Number of Cattle.*—There are about 600 black cattle; 500 sheep pasture during the summer, but not so many through the winter, and 130 horses. We have now 60 carts. In 1744, when the present incumbent was settled, there were only 2. At that period there were only two houses in the parish which had stone chimnies, the house of Barra and the manse. Since that time, three of the heritors have built mansion-houses; and within these few years, seven neat and commodious houses have been erected, upon different farms within the estate of Barra.

*Manure and Fuel.*—The principle manure is that which the cattle afford. Of late the farmers have begun to bring lime from Aberdeen and Newburgh, English and Scotch shells, and some powdered lime from Udney and the Buchan country. Some years ago it was to be had at Pitmedden.



medden. The principal fuel is peat, and some turf from the moors and surface of the peat-moss.

*Antiquities.*—On the summit of the hill of Barra, there are the distinct remains of a camp, of a circular form, in extent near to 3 acres, and surrounded with 3 ditches. It goes under the name of the *Cummin's Camp*. The Cummins were a bold and numerous race of people, who are said to have been proprietors of the greatest part of the Buchan country, and disaffected to King Robert Bruce. After the battle near Inverury, where the king's arms were victorious, he marched his troops, stormed this camp, and put the Cummins to flight. It is probable this camp had been originally formed by the Danes, as it seems to have required considerable time and labour to execute it, and that the Cummins had taken possession of it as an advantageous post. In the church-yard there is a long rough stone, cut out into a coarse statue of a man. The traditional report is, that it was done for the celebrated Thomas de Longueville, the companion of Wallace, who was killed in storming the above mentioned camp, and is buried here; but all this rests upon uncertain tradition. There are three Druidical temples here, two of them pretty entire.

*Heritors and Stipend.*—There are 5 heritors, none of whom at present reside. The stipend is L. 42 : 4 : 5 in money, 32 bolls of meal, and 16 bolls of bear.

*Character of the People.*—They are sober, industrious, and peaceable. Since 1744 none of them have been tried before a criminal court,

*Advantages*



*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages are the sobriety of the inhabitants, (not an alehouse being in the parish), and the diligence of the women in knitting stockings. They are far from lime, and it requires a considerable share of their summer labour to provide fuel.\*

\* The rise of farm servants wages is very remarkable. When the present incumbent was settled in 1744, the half year's wage of men servants was from 8s. to 15s. Sterling. The present rate is from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3, 15s. Sterling.



## NUMBER XXX.

## PARISH OF CRAIL.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF FIFE, PRESBYTERY OF ST  
ANDREW'S.)

*By the Rev. Mr ANDREW BELL.*

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*Situation, Extent, Surface, Soil, &c.*

THE parish of Crail lies upon the east point of the county of Fife. It is bounded on the S. by the frith of Forth, and on the E. by the German ocean; its form is irregular, and breadth unequal; its greatest length from Fife's Ness to Kingscavin Mill, is about 6 English miles. The number of acres cannot be exactly ascertained. The valued rent is L. 13,682 : 13 : 4 Scots. As the valuation, from the early cultivated state of this part of the country, is in general high, it is probable that the real rent does not exceed it in so great a proportion as in many other districts of Scotland.—The general appearance of the country is flat and naked. At a very little distance from the high water mark, the land rises abruptly from 20 to 60 or 80 feet above the level of the sea. From thence it swells gently towards the  
West,



West, without forming any hill or remarkable acclivity. The few trees and hedges here are reared with difficulty, and have an unhealthy appearance. The strong breezes from the sea contribute much to retard their growth. They thrive best at Ardrie, which has encouraged the present proprietor to make several additional plantations. The soil is exceedingly various. It is found of all kinds, from the richest deep black loam, and driest sharp channel, to the poorest thin wet clay. The value is consequently as various, from 3 s. or 4 s. to L. 1, L. 2, L. 3, L. 4, and in one instance to L. 5 an acre. The manures employed are lime, dung, and sea-ware; which last is cast upon the shore in great quantities; and upon many fields produces as good crops of barley, wheat, and turnips, as can be raised from dung.

*Agriculture, &c.*—In the mode of farming, there is nothing peculiar to this parish. The crops, and their rotation, are in general the same as along the rest of the coast of Fife. The ploughs are of the new construction, and universally drawn by two horses. No threshing mills are yet erected. Where the land is good, potatoes are generally planted as a preparation for wheat. An acre may produce from 40 to 60 bolls; 1500 or 2000 bolls are annually exported to the foreign and English markets, from 4 s. to 6 s. the boll. The trades people frequently rent small portions of land from the farmers, which they plant with this useful root. At their leisure hours they hoe and dress their little lots, an exercise which contributes both to their interest and to their health. In this way, after supplying the family, a few bolls are frequently procured for sale. The rent, when paid in money, may be at the rate of L. 3 or L. 4 an acre; but a more common way is for the tradesmen to give the seed and labour, allowing the farmer half the produce. Drilled  
beans



beans are raised in the neighbourhood of the town in great quantities, and of an excellent quality. The crops of wheat, oats, bear and barley, are plentiful. Partly perhaps from prejudice, and partly from a wish to accommodate their practice to the general nature of the soil, which is rather late, as lying upon a cold bottom, many of the farmers in this and the neighbouring parishes, still prefer for feed a mixture of bear or big and barley, in different proportions, which they call *Ramble*. Though they admit, that when equal quantities of these grains are mixed together, and the produce repeatedly sown, the barley in a few years is found generally to prevail; yet they are of opinion that they can depend most upon this mongrel crop. They think that the bear, as being the earlier and hardier plant, cherishes the tender barley, and pushes it forward in its various stages; that from its superior strength of straw, it prevents the barley from lodging so much as it is apt to do, when sown unmixed, a circumstance peculiarly prejudicial upon a damp soil, from the great quantity of undergrowth it is disposed to send up; and that, from the same quality, it assists much in winning and preserving the whole crop in late and rainy seasons. Experience without doubt confirms in some measure the truth of this train of reasoning; but how far these advantages are counterbalanced by the inferiority of this mixed kind of grain to pure barley, yet remains to be ascertained. Great quantities of these grains, with a full proportion of beans and wheat, are sent every year to Glasgow, and its neighbourhood. The opening of the Canal between the Forth and the Clyde, has been of immense advantage to the farmers and landholders in this part of the country, who formerly could find no good market for what corns they raised, beyond what was required for home consumption. The principal farms, about 20 in number, are of a moderate size. Though several



ral small ones were united, when the last leases were granted, yet the population of the country has not been so materially affected by this measure as by the gradual suppression of cot-houses, and a reduction of the number of hands employed in agriculture, by the changes which have taken place in the mode of farming. A part of two estates is not under lease, but let from year to year in pasture; and the principal heritors, with their families, are either gone from the parish altogether, or at most but occasional residents. A great proportion of the parish still continues uninclosed. Much has been done, but much still remains in respect of draining, which has always been found a most beneficial improvement. With a very few exceptions, the farm-houses and offices are bad; an evil which, it is hoped, will be remedied when new leases are granted. There is no doubt but in the end, the landholders would find their advantage in this. The tenant, who, at the risk of a valuable stock, is answerable for a rent of L. 100, L. 200 or L. 300 a-year, is entitled to good accommodation. In the present improved state of society, a man of spirit or property has no encouragement to engage with a farm, where he and his family must be obliged to live in a hovel, destitute of every convenience and comfort. About half the valued rent of the parish belongs to Miss Scott of Scotstarvit, a young Lady, whose amiable disposition affords the fairest prospect, that her ample fortune will be directed in a manner highly advantageous to the interests of humanity in general, and to the particular improvement of those parts of the country, in which she has an immediate concern. Besides the farmers residing in the country, about 12 or 15 live in the town, who cultivate from 3 to 20 or 30 acres each, partly rented, and partly their own property. These are an industrious class of men, whose numbers it is to be wished may not be reduced. Several of them are in the practice



practice of letting their carts and horses for hire for various purposes, particularly for bringing coals to the inhabitants either from the harbour or the neighbouring collieries.

*Minerals.*—In former times coal has been wrought both in the east and west fields of Crail. Vestiges of the pits and mines are easy to be traced. It is probable that no machinery was used, and that the crop-coal only, where it was level free, has been exhausted. In times of scarcity, the poor people have from time immemorial, been in the practice of digging the thin seams of coal among the rocks along the sea-shore; while they were thus employed a few weeks ago, within the high water mark, a gold coin of Queen Mary's was found, about 3 feet below the surface, under a stratum of rock, from whence the coal had formerly been wrought. It is dated 1553, and is intrinsically worth 11 s. or 12 s. in the possession of Captain Whyte of Dyfart. Limestone is also found by the sea-side in small quantities. There are several quarries of it in the interior part of the parish, upon the town's moor, and the lands of Newhall, belonging to the Honourable Henry Erskine. But though it is of a pretty good quality, yet, owing to its great depth, the working of these quarries has been productive of little profit to those who have opened them. There is plenty of freestone; but, in general, it is by no means remarkable for its goodness.

*Borough of Crail.*—Crail is a place of great antiquity. The name formerly written Carle, Caryle and Carraille, is supposed to signify, in the Gaelic, its situation upon a small winding or bending of the shore. By some of the old historians, it is mentioned as a town of considerable note, so early as the middle of the 9th century. It consists of two parallel streets, extending east and west along the shore,



shore, which is here pretty steep and high. The one upon the N. is wide, tolerably well built, and paved. The south or Nethergate is not paved; and though, in point of situation, perhaps naturally pleasanter than the other, has of late fallen greatly to decay. The whole town bears evident marks of having seen better days. As almost every house has a yard or croft belonging to it, the town covers a considerable space of ground. Owing to this circumstance, and to its high situation in the immediate vicinity of the sea, without trees or hills to afford occasional shelter, it enjoys a pure, uniform temperature of air, highly favourable to the health of the inhabitants, without producing, however, any remarkable instances of longevity. In the parish, there are several above 80, but none above 90 years of age. Crail is a royal borough, and sends a member to Parliament, in conjunction with Kilrenny, the two Anstruthers and Pittenweem. It received a charter from Robert the Bruce, which was successively confirmed, with several new grants, by Robert II. Queen Mary, James VI. and Charles I. By these charters, its privileges extend from the middle of the water of Leven, to the water of Puttekin, which falls into the sea at Pitmilley burn mouth, with a right to the fishings, tolls, anchorage, &c. in all the harbours and creeks within these bounds. Accordingly the customs are regularly collected between Crail and Pitmilley. Pittenweem and Anstruther Easter were burdened with an annual rent or reddendo, when they were erected into royal burghs. The other places between Crail and Leven do not appear ever to have been in use of making any such payment for their anchorage and customs; but the question has never yet been decided, whether the Town of Crail has or has not lost these, with several other rights and privileges. About the beginning of this century, Crail was the great rendezvous for the herring



ring fishery in the frith of Forth. Besides a great number of boats fitted out and manned by the fishermen and others belonging to the town, several hundreds assembled from different parts of the country, particularly from Angus, the Mearns and Aberdeenshire. These were supplied by the inhabitants with nets, for the use of which they received a certain proportion of what was caught. Immense quantities of herrings were cured for home consumption, and for exportation. The *Drave*, as it is here called, was seldom known to fail. The fisherman expected it as certainly as the farmer did his crop. Almost all the people in the place derived their support from it, the other fisheries, and the trade and manufactures which were immediately connected with them. A sad change has now taken place; and we listen as to a fairy tale, to the accounts given by old people of what they remember themselves, or have heard related by their fathers. For half a century, the fisheries here have been gradually declining. The herrings, for several years past, have neither visited the coast in any considerable quantity, nor remained long enough upon it to spawn as formerly. This is partly to be ascribed to unfavourable weather; partly to the shoals being broken by the bufs fishing upon the N. E. coast of Scotland, which was not the case during the flourishing period of the fishery here; partly to the encroachments of our neighbours the Dutch, who occasionally sweep our coast with a *fleet* of nets, extending several miles in length, at no greater distance than 2 or 3 leagues from the shore; and partly perhaps to the industry of man, having thinned this species of fish. This conjecture is not so vague, as some at first sight may be apt to imagine. In addition to the havock made by the British and Dutch fishermen, immense quantities have of late years been killed upon the coasts of Sweden and Norway. The herrings, crowding  
into



into the narrow bays and creeks, are there inclosed by nets, which are hauled upon the beach by the aid of capstans, where after curing what may be required for the market, the rest *by millions*, are immediately boiled down into oil, in cauldrons erected for that purpose on the shore. To the circumstance, of the herrings not having spawned for several years past upon this part of the coast, must in a great measure be ascribed the want of haddocks, which formerly used to be caught here in great quantities. About eight or ten years ago, the price was 2 s. 1 d. the long hundred, *i. e.* 132. At present, if one or two happen to be caught, they are greedily bought for 4 d. or 6 d. a-piece. The fisheries of great cod and skate are still good, but very precarious for open boats, as the best fishing ground lies far off shore. About 20 or 25 thousand lobsters are sent every year to the London market. Ten years ago, there was double the number. The price is L. 12, 10 s. the thousand.

*Population.*—By the return made to Dr Webster, the population was 2173.

Table of births, marriages, and deaths, in the town and parish of Crail, from 1750 to 1756.

| Years.   | Births.          | Marriages.       | Deaths. |
|----------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| 1750,    | 64               | 16               | 48      |
| 1751,    | 60               | 19               | 45      |
| 1752,    | 67               | 20               | 71      |
| 1753,    | 82               | 22               | 46      |
| 1754,    | 66               | 17               | 35      |
| 1755,    | 70               | 11               | 79      |
| 1756,    | 61               | 13               | 40      |
|          | <hr/>            | <hr/>            | <hr/>   |
| Total,   | 470*             | 118              | 364     |
|          | <hr/>            | <hr/>            | <hr/>   |
| Average, | 67 $\frac{1}{7}$ | 16 $\frac{6}{7}$ | 52      |

The

\* Of these 249 males, 221 females.



The excess of males above females in this table is perhaps uncommon. There is every reason to believe, that during the above period, the register was kept with great exactness.

Table of births, marriages, and deaths, in the town and parish of Crail, from the year 1786 to 1792. The population in 1790-91 was 1710 souls.

| Years.   | Births.         | Marriages.     | Deaths.         |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1786,    | 56              | 9              | 27              |
| 1787,    | 48              | 7              | 34              |
| 1788,    | 39              | 8              | 38              |
| 1789,    | 53              | 12             | 36              |
| 1790,    | 52              | 10             | 26              |
| 1791,    | 45              | 10             | 52              |
| 1792,    | 49              | 11             | 35              |
|          | <hr/>           | <hr/>          | <hr/>           |
| Total,   | 342             | 67             | 248             |
|          | <hr/>           | <hr/>          | <hr/>           |
| Average, | $48\frac{6}{7}$ | $9\frac{1}{7}$ | $35\frac{3}{8}$ |

As there were two long vacancies during the above period, this table is not perhaps very accurate.

Particular state of the Population of the Town and Parish of Crail, as taken in 1790-91.

No. of fam. in the town 335, in the country 73, total 430.

No. of souls in the town 1301, in the country 409, tot. 1710.

Of these 770 are householders, 322 males, and 448 fem.

330 are child. under 8, 157 males, and 173 fem.

457 are child. above 8, 185 males, and 272 fem.

153 are house ser. &c. 74 males, and 79 fem.

|                            |     |                                        |
|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------|
| Total males in the parish, | 728 | } No. of females more than males, 234. |
| Total females,             | 972 |                                        |

Total population in 1790-91, 1710

Decrease since 1755, 463



All the inhabitants are of the Established religion, except 8 Episcopalians, 3 Burgher Seceders, and 3 Presbytery of Relief.

The great excess of the females above the males, in the article of children, above 8 years of age, is occasioned by the young men going to sea, &c. while a great proportion of the girls remain at home with their parents. In the town of Crail there are 7 incorporated trades. The number of freemen, journeymen and apprentices, as they stood upon the roll in 1792, is as follows:

Smiths, 5 freemen, no journeymen nor apprentices.  
 Wrights, 8 freemen, 7 journeymen and apprentices.  
 Weavers, 35 freemen, 21 journeymen and apprentices.  
 Tailors, 12 freemen, 1 journeyman,  
 Shoemakers, 18 freemen, 11 journeymen and apprentices.  
 Coopers, 3 freemen, no journeymen nor apprentices.  
 Bakers, 7 freemen, 1 apprentice.

Several of these freemen are not engaged in their respective trades. At present there is but 1 working cooper, though this trade was formerly very flourishing. In the country there are 2 smiths, 5 weavers, 1 shoemaker, 1 mason, and 1 miller. Besides these, there are in the town, 2 hairdressers and barbers, 1 butcher, 11 masons, 6 brewers, who also retail ale and British spirits, 1 vintner, and 3 others who retail ale, porter, and spirits, 1 surgeon, 1 writer, 1 minister, 1 schoolmaster, 1 superannuated usher, 6 retail shopkeepers, and 1 miller.—Belonging to this port, there are 6 sloops from 25 to 60 tons, 1 brig of 150 tons, and 1 sloop upon the stocks. These vessels are navigated by 25 men. The number of sailors belonging to the town, but sailing from other ports, is very fluctuating. During the late French and American war, 72 men from the town and parish



fish of Crail, entered on board his Majesty's fleet; a small proportion returned home. Six boats are employed in the white or cod fishing, and 6 smaller ones in the lobster fishing. The number of men required to work them, is about 45 or 50. In 1791, 13 large boats were fitted out for the herring fishery, each carrying 7 men. Upon the island of \* May, which, *quoad sacra*, has always been considered since the Reformation as part of the parish of Crail, there were formerly 10 or 15 fishermen's families, with a proportionable number of boats. At present there are only 3 men and 2 women upon it, for the purpose of taking care of the light. At Fife's Ness there is only 1 boat, with 2 fishermen. The little village which is situated there, is not now so considerable as it appears once to have been. In the present generally decayed state of the fisheries along the east coast of Fife, the people employed about them deserve every protection and encouragement from the country. Nothing but the most pressing necessity should ever induce Government to make demands upon them for manning the Navy. Upon the occasion of a late armament, one for every *five* men was required by the regulating captain at Leith, before

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\* For an account of this island, see the "Statistical Account of Anstruther-Wester." The melancholy accident there recorded, *viz.* the suffocation of George Anderson, his wife and five children in the light-house, between the night of the 23d and morning of the 26th of January 1791, is supposed to have been occasioned by a fermentation among the immense heap of ashes, which for years had been accumulating round the building, as the two men who were saved, declare that a sulphureous steam was observed to issue from it for several weeks before the fatal night on which it burst out in flames. The infant that was taken from the breast of the dead mother, and the eldest son and daughter, who happened providentially not to be upon the island, are under the protection of Miss Scott, to whom the light-house belongs, and who doubtless will continue to patronise them, as they shall be found deserving. For several curious particulars concerning this, and the other islands in the frith of Forth, see Sibbald's Hist. of Fife.



he would grant protections. The fishermen here furnished their quota at the expence of about *Eighty Pounds Sterling*, thereby incurring a debt which they have not yet been able to liquidate.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—It would appear that Crail was once the seat of a priory\*. A ruin evidently

\* This priory is not to be found in the list of religious houses in Scotland at the time of the Reformation. It was probably suppressed long before that period. While this conjecture is stated with becoming diffidence, it is also proper to take notice of a tradition which some have heard, that the above mentioned ruin is the remains of a chapel dedicated to St Rufus. The kirk of Crail, with the teinds thereof, both parsonage and vicarage, anciently belonged to the priory of Haddington. In the year 1517, upon the petition and endowment of Sir William Myreton of Cambo, vicar of Lathrisk, Janet, Prioress of Haddington erected it into a collegiate church, with a provost, sacrist and several prebendaries. The provost had a right to the vicarage tithes, upon entertaining a vicar pensioner, for serving the cure of the parish within the said collegiate church; and six of the prebendaries had annuities, payable out of certain lands and tenements of houses, lying in the town and neighbourhood, mortified for that purpose by Sir William Myreton. The church, quire and vestry, are still standing, and used as the place of public worship by the congregation. “An inventarie of the ornaments and of the sylver wark in the college-kyrk of Carraile,” is in the possession of the present minister. It seems to have been handsomely provided. Besides the high altar, there were eight others, dedicated to the Virgin, St Catharine, St Michael, St James, St John the Baptist, St Stephen, St John the Evangelist, and St Nicholas. It was in this church that the mob, inflamed by the preaching of the famous John Knox, began the work of abolishing the monuments of idolatry in Fife, as their brethren had done at Perth a few days before. Having finished their operations here, they followed their apostolical leader to St Andrew’s, where they assisted in leveling its beautiful and superb Cathedral to the ground. About the time of the Reformation, Lord Lindefay seems to have obtained from the prioress and convent of Haddington, a *tack* of the tiends, both parsonage and vicarage, of the *parochin* and *parish kirk* of Crail, for the yearly rent of two hundred and fifty-five marks. By King James VI. the parish was disjoined from the priory, and erected into a separate and independant rectory. The patronage was vested in Sir William Murray of Belvair, who presented

Mr



evidently of great antiquity, the east gable of which is still standing, bears the name of the prior walls. A well in the neighbourhood is called the *briery*, without doubt a corruption of *priory well*; and a croft belonging to the burgh is described in the valuation of the tiends 1630, as the *prior croft*. By the act of Parliament\* which disjoined the parish of Crail from the priory of Haddington, a third part of the tiend-sheaves was assigned for support of the minister serving the cure. The parish being found too extensive it was judged expedient to divide it. Accordingly, in 1630, the lands of Kingbarns and others were erected into a separate parish. A stipend of 5 chalders of victual was assigned to the minister, which was by the voluntary act

Mr William Murray to the benefice. He then resigned the patronage into the King's hands in favour of John Lord Lindeſay, who in 1609 obtained from Mr Murray a confirmation of the former tack of the tiends, for three lives, and twice three nineteen years.

The town of Crail having by several charters obtained a grant of the *collegiate church* and its revenues, with the advocation, donation and right of patronage of its provostry, *prebendure*, chaplainaries, and choristry, disputes began to arise between them and Lord Lindeſay concerning their respective rights. To prevent law-suits, a compromise was entered into in 1630, by which the town's right to the collegiate church, and the place called the college, with the right of patronage as above, was confirmed; but their claim to emolument was expressly restricted to the tithe fish, and the rents, fees and duties, which had been the especial property of the provost and prebendaries. The parsonage and vicarage tithes excepting the tithe fish, were declared to remain with his Lordship and his successors. In 1774-6, the question concerning the right of patronage to the *parish church* was tried. By an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary it was given *against the town*, and the Earl of Crawford, as successor to Lord Lindeſay, is now considered as undoubted patron.

\* *Vide* Unprinted acts of King James VI. in the parliament house, Edinburgh. A more particular account of the collegiate church of Crail may be obtained by consulting its chartulary, which is deposited in the Advocates library, Edinburgh.



act of the heritors augmented to 8. The stipend of Crail was at the same time declared to be 10 chalders 2 firlots and 2 pecks of bear, which the minister accepted in full of all *tack-duties* formerly paid. No augmentation has hitherto been asked. In 1758 a decret was obtained for L. 66, 18s. 8d. Scots of element-money.—The minister has a house, garden, and stable, with a glebe of  $4\frac{3}{4}$  acres, which is let for 16 bolls of bear and L. 4 of money-rent.—The school of Crail has experienced a proportionable decay with the town. The number of scholars throughout the year is at a medium about 50. The fees are, for reading English 1s. 6d. reading and writing 2s. writing and arithmetic 2s. 6d. Latin 3s. Latin and arithmetic 5s. the quarter. There are few Latin scholars, as the people in general are not able to afford their children a liberal education. There are several women who teach children to read. The late usher of the public school, who is superannuated upon his salary, has also a few scholars. There is properly no parochial schoolmaster. The Magistrates and Town-council are patrons, and the salary, which is L. 12 a-year, is paid from the *common good*. The income of the present incumbent, who is also precentor and session-clerk, may be about L. 40 a-year. There is no house, nor garden annexed to the appointment.—The number of begging poor is only 6 or 8; but there are upwards of 100 who receive stated or occasional charity. There are no poor rates: They are supplied from the following funds: 1<sup>st</sup>, The kirk-session funds, which arise from the rent of about 6 acres of land; the interest of L. 293 Scots; the rent of seats in the church; dues upon marriages when the bride is in the parish; the collections at the church-doors; some small feu-duties, and occasionally gifts from heritors and others. After paying necessary fees and expenses, these funds, upon an average of the



the last 4 years, have afforded L. 30 a-year to 20 or 25 pensioners at 6 d. each the week, and L. 33 more to these and others in distressed circumstances, in occasional charities of money, coals, clothes, &c. As benefactors to the poor, the families of Scotstarvit, Wormiston, and Sauchop, are mentioned with peculiar pleasure. It may be proper to notice here, an excellent custom which has been established in the parish for more than a century. An annual collection is made at the church-door about Martinmas, for purchasing shoes and other articles of clothing for the poor. The sum collected varies according to circumstances, from L. 3 to L. 7. A few guineas are always added by the session, so that about L. 10 or L. 12 a-year are appropriated to this useful charity. *2d*, The fishing box. The funds of this charity arise from a small fee paid at entry into the society, the rent of some land, and a half tithe of fish granted by the town. From these are paid about L. 30 a-year in weekly pensions from 6 d. to 1 s. 6 d. and from L. 6 to L. 10 in occasional charities. *3d*, The failors box. The funds of this society arise from the rent of a few acres of land, and the interest of a small sum of money. They pay about L. 10 a-year in stated and occasional charities. *4th*, The interest of L. 500 in the 3 per cent. S. Sea annuities 1751, mortified by Robert Ramsay tailor in London for behoof of the poor of the parish of Crail, under the management of the minister and Town-council for the time being. The interest of this sum is divided yearly among poor householders. The whole funds for supporting the numerous poor may be stated to be, one year with another, L. 120 or L. 125 Sterling. It is to be wished that all the non-residing heritors would annually contribute their charitable mite, which in every point of view is a much better plan than the legal establishment of poor rates.

*Seats,*



*Seats, Antiquities, &c.*—The only gentlemens seats in the parish are Balcomie, Wormiston and Ardrrie; the houses of West-barns and Newhall have been demolished. In the line of antiquities there is nothing very remarkable; the prior walls, which stand close to the sea below the east end of the town, have been already mentioned. Upon the point of land a little to the south-west of the harbour, there are some traces of a building, which has given the name of *Castle Hyne* to a small creek or inlet among the rocks. In the vicinity, some stone coffins have lately been found. The remains of an old castle overlook the harbour upon the east. In it King David I. frequently resided; hence Crail became a constabulary, extending westward to *Kincraig Nook*. Sibbald, in his history of Fife, says, that this monarch died here; in general, he is supposed to have died at Carlisle in Cumberland. The similarity of the names Carryle and Carlisle, has probably occasioned the mistake. Upon the site of this castle, a gentleman has lately erected a neat summer-house, which commands a fine prospect, and having a battery of small cannon mounted upon its top, it makes an excellent appearance from the sea\*.

#### *Manufactures,*

\* In the list of antiquities, *the Dunes dike* must not be forgotten. It is the remains of a bulwark of *dry stones*, raised, it is said, in one night by the Danes, who having been defeated by the Scots at the water of Leven in 874, retreated eastward till they came to the extreme point of Fife, which they fortified in this manner, to defend themselves against the attacks of their victorious enemies, till they had an opportunity of embarking on board their ships, which were hovering in the mouth of the frith. The mound is quite overgrown with grass, but it is distinctly to be traced for a considerable way across the point. The large space which it incloses, with some other circumstances which strike an attentive observer upon the ground, might perhaps justify some degree of scepticism upon the subject. Near this dike is the small cave in which the Danes put to death Constantine the Scottish King, whom they had taken prisoner in a skirmish as they retreated. The only other antiquity in the parish which  
seem



*Manufactures, &c.*—The reader must not expect to hear of the flourishing state of trade and manufactures in this parish. They are indeed in a very languishing situation. The natural migration of commerce from small towns, where the stock of the trader is inconsiderable, and the demand for consumption limited, to great towns, where the capitals of merchants are large, and the demands extensive and constant, has deprived Crail of any little portion of foreign trade which it formerly enjoyed. The various mercantile articles which are required, are brought weekly by the carriers from Edinburgh or Dundee, and occasionally from Leith by sea. Properly speaking, there is no manufacture established here. The women, however, are generally employed in spinning lint-yarn for the manufacturers in other places, to the extent of many thousand spindles every year. At present the price is from 1s. 3d. to 8d. the spindle, according to the quality. A few shoes are made for the market; and nearly 40,000 yards of sheetings, Osnaburghs, coarse brown linen, &c. are wrought by the weavers for sale, over and above what is manufactured for private use. It is to be hoped, that by proper exertions, these, and other branches of business, will be gradually extended and improved.

*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The parish enjoys no peculiar advantages over those in the neighbourhood along the coast of Fife. Its disadvantages are, the want of shelter, which exposes it to the blast from every quarter. Its angular situation, which circumscribes its intercourse to a small district of country, and a scarcity of running water, which discourages the introduction of any manufacture which requires

seems deserving of notice, is a stone which stands upon a small tumulus between Crail and Sauchop. A cross is rudely sculptured upon it. Concerning the time or occasion of its erection, there is no tradition.



quires the aid of powerful machinery. The greatest disadvantage of all is the badness of the present harbour, which only admits small vessels, is dangerous to take in bad weather, and in south easterly winds affords but indifferent shelter. It has frequently proved fatal to the fishermen, who often for many days together cannot go out or in with safety, while boats from the harbours to the westward experience no inconveniency. A little to the east of the town, there is a small bay or opening among the rocks, called *Rome*, for what reason is not known, which at a moderate expence might be made an excellent harbour. It would have a good depth of water, could be easily taken in all weathers, would be advantageous for a more perfect prosecution of the fishery, and of very considerable use to the coasting vessels, when turning either up or down the frith in blowing weather. This is probably the place called the *old harbour* in some of the charters belonging to the town.

*Character of the People.*—Of the character of his people, a minister ought to speak with caution in a publication of this kind. To record their vices would argue imprudence, as tending rather to irritate than to reform. To trumpet forth their praise would favour of adulation. In no material feature of their character do the people here differ from their neighbours. The credulity of former times with respect to witches is almost extinguished, and the little superstitious fancies, which so frequently prevail among the commonalty, are gradually losing ground. The practice of inoculating for the small-pox has been much retarded, partly by religious scruples, and partly by the expence of medical aid. To the cleanness and commodiousness of their habitations, they are beginning to pay greater attention than formerly. When dressed they are decently neat, rather



ther than fine. If they are not remarkable for sobriety and industry, neither do they deserve to be stigmatized as dissipated and idle. Their ideas and sentiments are gradually acquiring a greater degree of liberality. The ordinances of religion are respected, a tolerable decorum of manners is observed, though here there are exceptions as well as in every numerous society; as subjects they are peaceable and loyal, and by no means fond of "meddling with those who are given to change."

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—Formerly there were four corn-mills in the parish. At present there are only two; one of them is turned by salt water, admitted during flood-tide into a reservoir, and discharged upon the wheel after the tide has ebbed. The parish is rated at about 50 plough-gates. For them the statute-labour is generally paid in kind. It is commuted to private householders. The sum may amount to L. 12 or L. 14 a-year. The road leading from Anstruther to St Andrew's, and passing through Crail, is in tolerable repair. The statute-labour is perfectly sufficient to uphold it; and if applied with vigour, might annually do something to the other roads within the parish. If the middle road to St Andrew's were made, it would tend greatly to the improvement of the interior part of the country. The price of labour and provisions is nearly the same as in other parts of Fife. James Shairp was settled minister of Crail in 1648. He continued to hold the living till he was consecrated archbishop of St Andrew's, after the Restoration. From the session records, it appears, he was a strict disciplinarian. The rigid presbyterian parson differed in *circumstances*, rather than in *character*, from the rigorous metropolitan. Of the many respectable gentlemen, who at different times received the rudiments of their education at the school of Crail, Lord Dunfinnan, Sir



Charles Middleton, Sir William Erskine, Colonel Monypenny and Colonel Moncrieff of the Engineers, have distinguished themselves in public life. This last gentleman is a native of the parish. It would be difficult to state with any degree of exactness, how many acres are under the different kinds of crops, or what may be the produce.

## NOTE.

Births, marriages and deaths of inhabitants in Crail, town and parish, for the year 1792, stand as follows:

| Births.              | Marriages. | Deaths.              |
|----------------------|------------|----------------------|
| 49                   | 11         | 35                   |
| Males 23—Females 26. |            | Males 14—Females 21. |

Of those who died, there were 8 under 20 years of age,

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 between 20 and 30, | 7 between 60 and 70, |
| 1 ——— 30 ——— 40,     | 8 ——— 70 ——— 80,     |
| 2 ——— 40 ——— 50,     | 3 ——— 80 ——— 90,     |
| 4 ——— 50 ——— 60,     |                      |

Diseases of which they died, classed according to the ideas of their friends:

| I. Febrile Diseases.           |   | IV. Local Diseases.       |    |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------|----|
| Continued fever,               | 3 | Iliac passion,            | 1  |
| Consumption of the lungs,      | 3 |                           |    |
| Nervous fever,                 | 1 | V. Anomalous Diseases.    |    |
| Putrid fever and sore throats, | 2 | Disease unknown,          | 1  |
| Total,                         | 9 | Casualties, drowned,      | 1  |
| II. Nervous Diseases.          |   | Childbed,                 | 1  |
| Apoplexy,                      | 2 | Hysterical,               | 1  |
| Palsy,                         | 2 | Decay of nature, or aged, | 11 |
| Total,                         | 4 | Ulcer,                    | 1  |
| III. Cachectical Diseases.     |   | Sore face,                | 1  |
| Dropfy of the belly,           | 1 | Pain in the head,         | 1  |
| Jaundice,                      | 1 |                           |    |
| Total,                         | 2 |                           |    |
|                                |   | Total,                    | 19 |



## N U M B E R XXXI.

## P A R I S H O F F Y V I E,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY  
OF TURREFF.)*By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM MOIR.**Extent, River, &c.*

THE parish of Fyvie, though of considerable extent, affords not much matter for Statistical Information; concerning the etymology of the name, I never heard even a conjecture hazarded. It is about 13 miles in length, and 8 in breadth; supposed to contain about 20 or 22,000 acres, 8000 of which may be under culture, 1200 in plantations and natural woods; the remainder, mosses, heath, and rough pasture grass. The small river Ithan, which takes its rise about 5 or 6 miles above this, after passing through the parish of Auchterless, and a part of Turriff, divides this parish nearly into two equal parts, and falls into the sea at the Newburgh, a small village in the parish of Foveran. On this river, there are two salmon fishings, one at the mouth of it, and the other at Ellon, where there are cruives, which prevent the salmon from getting this length, except in great floods, and at spawning time. But what this small river is remarkable for, is, the pearls that are sometimes found in it. In the years 1762 and 1763, there was a considerable number found in it, many of which sold from 1s. to 6s. 8s. and 10s. the pearl, and there were two of them so large as to sell, the one at L. 2, and the other at L. 3 Sterling.



*Surface, soil, &c.*—The surface is very uneven, a great part being barren hills covered with heath; a great part of them, however, appears to have been once in a cultivated state, as is evident from the ridges that are still perceptible on them. Some of them have of late been planted. The Honourable General Gordon of Fyvie, the patron and principal heritor, has of late inclosed and planted above 1000 acres with oak, ash, plane, beech, larch, pine, and common firs, all which are in a thriving condition. The soil is various, but in general kindly, and yields pretty good early crops of bear and oats, especially in the neighbourhood of the church and Fyvie Castle. The more remote parts, particularly near the moles and moors, are of a colder nature and later. They are, however, capable of improvement, and a great part has of late been considerably improved; there being few or none of the farmers who have not a part of their fields in turnip and potatoes, and afterwards laid down in clover and rye grass. The writer of this was among the first, who set them the example by sowing grass-seeds in the open fields, which, succeeding very well, others were induced to follow the example. The time of sowing varies according to the season, and nature of the soil. It is commonly from the beginning or middle of March to the middle of April, for oats. Bear is sown in the end of April, and throughout the month of May. They begin to reap in the month of September, and in early seasons sooner. Oxen are generally employed in ploughing. Some use 8 oxen, others 10, and some 12, others 4 horses, and some 2 horses and 2 oxen. The plough used for all these is on the model of the English one, except in very stony ground, where the Scotch one is employed. The rents are pretty reasonable, excepting small crofts, which generally give 30s. and upwards the acre, besides services and mill-multiples, so often taken notice of in this work, as unfavourable



vourable to the industrious husbandman. It is impossible to ascertain what quantity of grain may be annually produced in the parish; but it is certain, that a large quantity is sold yearly out of it, over and above what is paid to the heritors as a part of their rent\*.

*Air and Diseases.*—The air in general is reckoned pure and healthy. There have been no prevalent distempers for some time, except the putrid fore throat, which raged about two years ago, and proved fatal to several people. It has appeared also this winter, but is not so violent and as formerly. The small pox also carries off some, as inoculation is not very common.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—They are in general decent and well behaved; seldom frequenting the inn or tavern, but upon very particular occasions; generally sympathizing with those in distress, and ready to give them such assistance as they can afford. Their houses are in general more neat and comfortable than they were 30 years ago. Their dress and manner of living are also improved.

*Heritors, Rent, &c.*—There are 8 heritors in the parish, The Honourable General Gordon of Fyvie, Earl of Aberdeen, Miss Innes of the Moors of Fyvie, Gordon's Hospital, Aberdeen, James Leslie of Rothy, John Forbes of Blackford, James Gordon of Littlefolla, and James Hay of Monkhill. Only 3 of them reside. General Gordon being one of the Gentlemen of the Bed-chamber to his Majesty, resides only occasionally at Fyvie Castle, which stands in

\* *Servants Wages.*—Servants wages have risen greatly within a few years, and are still rising. The writer of this, paid to the first man servant he had 15s. in the half year, and to a woman-servant 12s. but now the men cannot be got under L. 3 or L. 4; and the women demand L. 1, 5s. and L. 1, 10s.



in a fertile and pleasant plain on the banks of the Ithan; the surrounding eminences being covered with firs, and other forest trees. When the addition, which is at present making to the house is finished, it will be one of the largest and most commodious houses in the county. The present rent of the parish may be from L. 2500 to L. 3000 Sterling. In 1634, there was a valuation of the parish made, in order to fix the value of the teinds, which I subjoin, to show the then proprietors, and rental of the parish \*.

Church,

|                                                                               | Merks Scots. | Bear. | Meal | Malt. |      |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|
|                                                                               |              | Chal. | Bol. | Chal. | Bol. | Bolls. |
| * Earl of Dumfermline,                                                        | —            | 3     |      | 47    |      |        |
| Patrick Urquhart of Lethenty,                                                 | —            | 3     |      | 6     |      |        |
| John Gordon of Kirkcoun,                                                      | —            | —     | —    | 1     | 4    | 4      |
| Andrew Meldrum, burghers of Aberdeen, for Cowhill,                            | 60           |       |      |       |      |        |
| Lands belonging to ditto,                                                     | —            | —     | —    | 3     |      |        |
| Lands belonging to Elizabeth Seaton, relict of John Urquhart of Craigfintray, | —            | —     | —    | 25    |      |        |
| William Forbes of Falquhone,                                                  | 300          | —     | —    | 1     | 4    |        |
| Andrew Meldrum of the Nuirs,                                                  | 1000         | —     | —    | 1     | 12   | 4      |
| William Gordon of Tersperrie,                                                 | —            | —     | —    | 10    |      |        |
| Walter Berkley of Towie,                                                      |              |       |      | 3     |      |        |
| Alex. Gardyne younger of Blackford,                                           | —            | —     | —    | 1     | 8    |        |
| Sir Geo. Gordon younger of Gight,                                             | —            | —     | —    | 8     | 14   | 2      |
| Lethenty belong to Geo. Gordon of Lethenty,                                   | —            | —     | —    | 1     |      |        |
| John Gordon of Ardlogie,                                                      | —            | —     | —    | 4     | 12   | 4      |
| William Hay of Fetterletter,                                                  | —            | —     | —    | 5     |      |        |
| Nath. Gordon of Monkhill,                                                     | —            | —     | —    | 1     | 4    | 4      |
| Robert Meldrum of Over-Rothy,                                                 | —            | —     | —    | 1     |      |        |
|                                                                               | 1360         | 6     |      | 121   | 10   | 18     |

By this valuation, the rent of the parish, at that time, was 1360 merks Scots money, 6 chalders of bear, 121 chalders 10 bolls of meal, and 1 chalders 2 bolls of malt.



*Church, Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church is an old building 90 feet in length within the walls, and 22 feet wide. It was repaired in 1776, at which time the session gave L. 20 for liberty to erect a loft or gallery in the west end, the seats of which they let at a moderate rent, for the benefit of the poor, for which they draw about 10 *per cent.* for their money. There is an old desk in the church, erected by one Watson in 1502, which is still quite fresh and sound. It is now one of the best and most commodious old churches in the county.—The manse was built in 1762, but the offices stand greatly in need of repairs. The stipend was augmented in 1783, and is 1000 merks, including communion-element-money, and 6 chalders of victual, one of which is bear. The glebe is small, and in 4 different parcels. Patron, General Gordon. Near the church, on the banks of the Ithan, are the ruins of a priory, said to be founded by Fergus Earl of Buchan, in the year 1179, and his donation of it to the Abbey of Arbroath was afterwards confirmed by Margaret, Countess of Buchan, his daughter, who married Sir William Cumming, Knt. who, by that marriage, became Earl of Buchan. From the appearance of the foundations, which were extant some years ago, it should seem to have been 3 sides of a court, the middle of which was the church, and the 2 sides the cells and offices of the monks. It does not seem to have been richly endowed, for the lands that belonged to it in this neighbourhood, amount only to L. 200 Sterl. of rent at this day.—To the west of the church is the parish-school, which in summer is generally attended by about 30 children, and 40 in winter. The salary is paid to the master in meal, by the farmers and crofters, which he is obliged to collect, and amounts (if exactly paid) to 12 bolls of meal annually. The fees of the scholars are low. He has L. 2 as session-clerk; and here, it is but justice to observe, that  
the



the education of youth is at present carried on at this school on the most approved plan; and besides what is generally taught at grammar schools, the French and English languages are taught here with as much purity and exactness as in most of the English academies, (the present master having been several years in one of the best academies in the neighbourhood of London), a circumstance which deserves to be remarked, as few country parishes enjoy the like advantages.—The number on the poor's roll at present amounts to 24. The only funds for their support are the weekly collections, fines, mortcloth-money, and the rent of the above mentioned gallery. There are few in the parish who go about begging, except in very hard times.

*Roads.*—The public road from Aberdeen to Banff, goes through the parish. It is kept in pretty good repair by the statute-labour. There is a post-office on it at Lesses of Fyvie, not far from the church.

*Manufactures.*—The manufacture in which the women are chiefly employed, is that of spinning wool, and knitting it into hose. The hose manufacturers in Aberdeen come out to different stations every 4 weeks, and give out their wool, which they receive knit into stockings. Thus, the workers are not put to the trouble and expense of providing materials for their work, but receive their wages punctually when their work is done. Several of the men-servants also employ themselves in the winter evenings, in knitting their own stockings. A much better way of employing their time than frequenting the ale-house, of which there are only 3 in the parish.

*Miscellaneous Articles.*—There are in the parish 13 corn-mills, in each of which there is a fanner and winnower, turned by the machinery of the mill, which not only facilitates



litates the peoples labour, but enables them to work in good and bad weather; 2 fulling-mills, a barley-mill, and a lint-mill, which was erected in 1782, before which time there was scarce any lint-feed sown in the parish; but now there are few farmers who do not sow some quantity. There is one threshing machine, and another going to be erected, which is to be wrought by water. There are few farmers who have not a winnower in their barns.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population then was 2528. The number of souls at present in the parish is 2194, of which 1059 are males, 1135 females, 22 widowers, 74 widows; 300 Dissenters, of whom 3 are Roman Catholics, 12 Seceders, and the rest Nonjurors, who have 2 places of worship in the parish. The births and burials are not exactly registered, the small tax imposed operating as a kind of prohibition; but, from the best information that could be procured, the following is an average of the births, burials and marriages for 4 years preceding 1793, viz. Births, males 29, females 26, in all 55; burials, males 25, females 22, in all 47; marriages 11.

*Tradesmen.*—Shoemakers 9, weavers 10, smiths 7, tailors 10, wrights 11, dyers 2. There is also a midwife regularly bred to the business at the expense of the session.



## NUMBER XXXII.

## PARISH OF DRON,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,  
PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.\*)

*By the Rev. Mr DAVID DOW.*

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*Name, Extent, Surface, &c.*

THE present and ancient name of this parish, as far back as can be traced, is *Dron*. *Dronn*, in the Gaelic language, is said to signify a 'Ridge or Projection, a Hunch or Bunch;' and this probably is the true etymology of the name; for it is obviously descriptive of its situation, of that part at least where the church and manse are placed. They stand on the eastern extremity of a rising ground, detached from

\* In order to give some idea of the populousness of this part of the country, it may not be improper to observe, that there are 20 parishes in this presbytery exclusive of the town of Perth, all of which lie round it as their common centre, and are all, except 4, within 6 miles of it. These 4 are about 9 or 10 miles distant from Perth. Six parishes lie south of Earn; 8, north of Tay; and the rest, including Perth itself, between the Earn and the Tay.



from the hills, and formed like a ridge, sloping on every side to the N. and S. extending westward with a gradual ascent, and terminating a little beyond a farm, which lies on the most elevated part of it, and is named West Dron. There are several other places in different parts of the country, which have the same name of Dron; and they have all a situation somewhat similar. The parish is situated about a mile S. of the river Earn, and 5 miles S. E. of the town of Perth. It extends in length from E. to W. between 3 and 4 miles, including a narrow strip of the lands of Pitkeathly, in Dumbarnie parish, which intersects it, and in breadth from N. to S. about 3 miles. The principal and lower part, stretches, in a sloping position, along the bottom of the Ochil hills, which form the southern boundary of the rich and beautiful vale of Strath-earn, and presents to the view of the traveller, passing along the great road which leads from Perth to Kinghorn and the Queensferry, a very agreeable prospect of well cultivated and inclosed fields. The face of the hills here is various. In some places they exhibit an irregular and broken surface, roughened by projecting rocks, and overgrown with furze; but even there, considerable patches of corn-land, producing barley and oats, are to be seen interspersed. In others the descent is more smooth and regular, uniformly green, and adorned with strips and clumps of plantation. Some are covered with an extensive wood of firs, birch, ash, &c. which at once ornaments the prospect and enriches the country. When fully grown, it will afford a copious supply of timber for all necessary uses, an article grown scarce, and much wanted here. A few farms, more extensive than rich, occupy the higher part of the parish, being situated on the summit of the Ochil hills.

*Climate*



*Climate and Diseases.*—The higher ground possesses, from its elevated situation, a pure and wholesome air, though rather keen and piercing; but the lower part of the parish cannot boast of so pure an atmosphere, for it is often loaded with moist vapours, the common exhalations of deep and narrow vallies, where flow rivers wind their course, and where much of the surface is covered during winter with stagnated water. The existence of agues, fluxes, rheumatism, and other kindred disorders of the human frame, is the natural consequence of such a state of atmosphere. It cannot, however, be said, that the inhabitants, tho' occasionally attacked by these disorders, are in general unhealthy. Nature and habit have a wonderful power to form the constitution to its local residence and destination in life. Agues, formerly of a severe and tedious kind, were very prevailing; the returns of spring and autumn never failed to bring along with them this fatal disease, and frequently laid aside many of the labouring hands, at a time when their work was of the greatest consequence and necessity. For several years, however, this disease, so enfeebling to the human system, has in a great measure ceased. This happy change may be owing in part to a different mode of living, and in part, probably, to the better and more general cultivation of the soil, considered as a source of more pure and wholesome air. In this neighbourhood, large tracts of moorish ground, which lay totally neglected, and covered with water in winter and spring, have lately been broken up, drained, and brought under tillage, or planted with timber, which absorbs and exhausts the superfluous moisture. Consumptions are rather more frequent than formerly among the young, and often seemingly healthy and vigorous. They are no doubt sometimes owing to a radical weakness of constitution, but more frequently to sedentary occupations, damp houses, crowding the sick and the healthy together in



in one bed, and to the pernicious custom of exposing themselves, in a state of violent perspiration, to the sudden impressions of cold. A large draught of cold water, in this state, has often proved the beginning of consumptions and dropfies \*.

*Rivers, Springs, Minerals.*—Though there are no rivers which run through this parish, yet it is plentifully supplied with water, by springs and little currents which descend from the hills. The only river which borders on the parish, and divides it from Abernethy, is Farg. It rises in the

the

\* Scorbutic habits are not uncommon; being every where, in a less or greater degree, to be met with. But nature has provided a remedy for this disorder in the mineral waters of Pitkeathly in this neighbourhood, which have proved very effectual in some of the worst and most inveterate appearances of this malady, as also a successful palliative in scrofulous disorders. The small-pox, through improper management, by keeping the patients too hot, and too long in their foul linen and clothes, and through the still-prevailing aversion of the lower classes of the people to the salutary practice of inoculation, continue to carry off great numbers of children. It is difficult to convince that part of mankind whose minds have not been opened by education and reflection, that any innovation on the customs of their fathers can with propriety or safety be introduced. A superstitious dread of acting contrary to the will of heaven, by introducing disease into the human frame, not inflicted by the immediate hand of Providence, is the sentiment which deters the weak but well-meaning peasant, from adopting the practice of inoculation. But daily instances of its happy effects begin to wear off this prejudice, and experience and observation have enabled many persons to get the better of those ill-grounded scruples, which they once thought it a part of religion to entertain. Another very fatal disease among children, and very prevailing, is that of worms; which cuts off many, debilitates the constitution of more, and is frequently attended with very violent and shocking symptoms. No effectual remedy seems to be known for extirpating these pernicious vermin from the human constitution, when once, by neglecting to apply an early check, they have been suffered to obtain a seat in the bowels. Bad water, in its raw state, and unripe fruit, contribute greatly to introduce and strengthen this habit, so common and troublesome to children.



the Ochil hills, about 5 or 6 miles above, and runs through a deep and narrow glen for a considerable way, before it issues into the plain; and after a short course directly north it bends to the east, and loses itself in the river Earn, at a place, which derives its name from it, called Culfargie. Though this river is often almost dry in summer, yet after long continued rains, or heavy summer showers, it swells into a dreadful torrent, and bursts from its narrow channel into the level of the Strath, with such irresistible impetuosity as to sweep all before it. It abounds with fine trout, and is the scene of an agreeable amusement to the angler in the proper season. Mineral springs are frequent here, and by their scum and sediment, indicate the existence of metals in the neighbouring mountains. They are mostly of the chalybeate kind, but are not used for any medicinal purpose, though, if tried, they might probably be found of service for bracing the stomach and nerves. There are some veins of limestone in the parish; but what has yet been discovered, is of an inferior kind. It is not however improbable, that if fuel could be procured for burning it at a moderate expense, veins of good lime might be found on a more accurate search; an article of great importance to the farmer, who at present is obliged to import it from Lord Elgin's lime-works at Charlestown, or to bring it in carts from the hills of Fife, the Lomonds, or Forthar, at the distance of 8 or 10 miles. There is some free-stone; but seldom wrought, except on a particular demand. The appearances of coal are so great, that many attempts have been made to discover it, by digging, boring, &c. but hitherto without success. Three different trials have been made within this parish since the year 1758, and sanguine hopes have been entertained, but as often disappointed. Our nearest coal-mines are at Keltie, at the distance of 18 miles



miles south, from whence they are usually brought in carts during summer, for the supply of all this country south of Perth. There is no moss nearer than 8 or 9 miles. This scarcity of fuel is severely felt by the lower classes of the people, who having neither cattle nor carriages of their own, must purchase it from others who have, at a dear rate.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The soil in the lower division of the parish, though various, according as it approaches to the bottom of the hills, or the level of the Strath, is in general strong and fertile, consisting partly of clay, till, and loam, producing plentiful crops of wheat, beans, pease, barley, grass, oats, which is the usual rotation observed here. Turnip and potato are not yet raised in any great quantities, still less cabbage and yams. The nature of the soil does not seem adapted for the culture of flax, being too stiff and moist; little therefore is raised, except for domestic use. The soil of those farms which lie on the hills is of a lighter kind, shallow and interspersed with rock, lying at the bottom of the furrow, and frequently jutting out above the surface. But in the flats and hollows the soil is good, and produces very tolerable crops, chiefly of barley and oats, pease only in small quantities. Of late wheat has been cultivated with success, as also grass. Large tracts, however, in these farms are unfit for cultivation, and only afford an extensive range of indifferent pasture for cattle. No sheep are now kept there, though the pasture is better adapted for that useful species of animals than any other, because they are so apt to stray into the neighbouring inclosures, and so injurious to fences. From the elevated situation of these farms, they are much exposed to suffer from high winds and late harvests.—Improvements in agriculture



ture have, within these last 20 or 30 years, made a rapid progress. Much uncultivated ground has been broken up, and is now become, through the united efforts of labour, skill, and expense, capable of producing good crops of every species of grain. Fields which formerly lay open and exposed, and were ploughed in a careless and irregular manner, are now inclosed, straightened, and subdivided. The fences, for most part, consist of ditch and thorn hedge, often too slight, and too much neglected, to prove either effectual or durable. Some are constructed on a better plan; a strong high earth fence, with a row of thorns on each side, intermixed with trees of all sorts. Formerly wheat crops were rare and scanty, because raised on soil ill prepared to produce it; but now great quantities of this grain are sown on every large farm, on ground thoroughly fallowed, and manured with dung and lime. One great improvement in rural œconomy is the introduction of threshing mills, which the principal farmers are now every where erecting, at a great expense, from L. 30 to L. 100, and above. As there is no convenient access to water here, these machines are all worked by 3 or 4 horses, and require 7 or 8 hands to carry on the operation. By this mode, 70 bolls of grain have been cleaned and prepared for the field or the market in a few hours. The number of ploughs is reckoned to be about 25; but this is occasionally increased, especially in the spring, in order to carry on the operations of that important season, with vigour and expedition. Every plough is drawn by 2 horses, without any driver, as the man who guides the plough has the entire command of them, by means of a long rein, which passes from their heads to his hand, and rests on a hook inserted in the stilts. The plough in common use is the Scotch  
plough,



plough, constructed on the same principles, but of neater workmanship, and with some improvements, such as an iron head, and a bended plate of yetlin or Carron manufacture, for a mould-board. The practice of using oxen in the plough, which till of late was so general, is now entirely disused; but considering the high price of horses, the greater expense of their food and furniture, and in case of accidents, their being totally unproductive of any reversion to the owner, it may be a question, whether labour might not be carried on with much less expense by oxen, especially in those farms where the fields lie in a sloping or hanging position, as they are known to pull more steadily than horses. This practice would likewise have a tendency, by lessening the demand, to reduce the present exorbitant price of horses.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the population at that time amounted to 598. About the end of last, and beginning of this century, the inhabitants of this parish have been much more numerous than they are at present. This fact is evinced by comparing the number of baptisms, (for we have no precise register of births), in one year, as marked in the session-records during these different periods. Another proof of it arises from the evident vestiges of several hamlets or little villages, which formerly were the residence of petty farmers, cottagers, and tradesmen, but are now either totally suppressed, or exist only in a state of visible decay.



TABLE of Baptisms, as inserted in the Parish Register for 21 years, in the beginning of this century, and for the same number of years preceding 1791.

| Year.      | Num.            | Males.          | Fem. | Year.           | Num.           | Males.         | Fem. |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------|
| In 1700,   | 23              | 12              | 11   | 1770            | 8              | 5              | 3    |
| 1701,      | 20              | 8               | 12   | 1771            | 9              | 3              | 6    |
| 1702,      | 15              | 8               | 7    | 1772            | 8              | 2              | 6    |
| 1703,      | 23              | 12              | 11   | 1773            | 8              | 5              | 3    |
| 1704,      | 21              | 11              | 10   | 1774            | 10             | 6              | 4    |
| 1705,      | 20              | 9               | 11   | 1775            | 8              | 5              | 3    |
| 1706,      | 20              | 8               | 12   | 1776            | 13             | 6              | 7    |
| 1707,      | 25              | 19              | 6    | 1777            | 19             | 5              | 14   |
| 1708,      | 18              | 8               | 10   | 1778            | 8              | 3              | 5    |
| 1709,      | 26              | 14              | 12   | 1779            | 11             | 3              | 8    |
| 1710,      | 21              | 11              | 10   | 1780            | 11             | 4              | 7    |
| 1711,      | 20              | 16              | 4    | 1781            | 12             | 6              | 6    |
| 1712,      | 17              | 11              | 6    | 1782            | 15             | 4              | 11   |
| 1713,      | 21              | 13              | 8    | 1783            | 9              | 3              | 6    |
| 1714,      | 16              | 8               | 8    | 1784            | 14             | 9              | 5    |
| 1715,      | 13              | 8               | 5    | 1785            | 13             | 8              | 5    |
| 1716,      | 19              | 11              | 8    | 1786            | 8              | 4              | 4    |
| 1717,      | 18              | 10              | 8    | 1787            | 13             | 8              | 5    |
| 1718,      | 18              | 9               | 9    | 1788            | 14             | 9              | 5    |
| 1719,      | 21              | 8               | 13   | 1789            | 11             | 6              | 5    |
| 1720,      | 17              | 9               | 8    | 1790            | 12             | 8              | 4    |
| Total,     | 412             | 223             | 189  | 234             | 112            | 122            |      |
| Average,   |                 |                 |      |                 |                |                |      |
| in a year, | $19\frac{1}{2}$ | $10\frac{1}{2}$ | 9    | $11\frac{1}{2}$ | $5\frac{1}{2}$ | $5\frac{1}{2}$ |      |
|            |                 |                 |      |                 |                |                | By   |

\* There is no exact register of deaths. The only calculation, therefore, which can be made of them, arises from the use of the mortcloths, which are usually two at least in every parish, and being paid for when given out, the money is stated to account of cash received for the poor. But this is so inaccurate a statement in respect of real deaths in the parish, that

no



By the last account which was taken of the number of souls in this parish about 18 years ago, when there was a proposal for embodying the Scotch militia, they amounted to 500, at present they do not exceed 450, which is a decrease of one-tenth part in so short a period. This no doubt is principally owing to the modern practice of uniting several farms into one, and the suppressing of cottagers. Whatever advantages may arise either to the land owner or tenant from this practice, it is evidently attended with several inconveniences to themselves, and to the country in general. Small farms and little villages, consisting of cottagers and tradesmen, were the nurseries of young persons of both sexes, and afforded a constant supply of servants, and plenty of hands for labour on every occasion. From the same source, the market was plentifully furnished with poultry, butter, cheese, &c. at a reasonable rate. Perhaps the present difficulty of procuring servants, the great advance of their wages, the scarcity of hands for reaping the corns in harvest, and the exorbitant demands now made for their work in that season, with several other hardships, all sensibly felt by the farmers themselves, and the subject of general complaint, may, in time, induce them to recur to

no certain conclusion can be drawn from it. For many of the inhabitants are buried in other parishes, and consequently our mortcloths are not used. And for several poor people it is not demanded, or it is given *gratis*. In these cases, the death of such persons is not inserted in the parish-register. The record of marriages is likewise very inaccurate. Indeed there is reason to suspect, that until these public registers are put on a better footing, the conclusions deduced from them will not be very exact. An accurate register of births and deaths, specifying the age of each person at their death, and the distempers of which they die, &c. would afford very satisfactory evidence with respect to the objects in view by such enquiries as the present. But to answer this purpose, some small salary might be necessary to the session-clerk or schoolmaster, and would be a very acceptable, indeed necessary addition to their poor livings.



to the old practice of encouraging these little plantations of useful and industrious labourers. By the suppression of these, it may likewise be observed, a number of people, who, from their manner of life and employment in the country, were a healthy vigorous race, have been, for the present, forced to seek a subsistence in the neighbouring cities; where the nature of their occupations, confined apartments and unwholesome air, are by no means favourable circumstances for the increase of population, or the health of the individual.

*Division of the Inhabitants, Morals, &c.*—The principal heritors of the parish are 6, none of whom reside. There are 2 or 3 feuars who hold of the proprietor of the lands of Potry; they possess a few acres and reside. There are about 14 farmers, who rent land from L. 20, L. 30, or L. 50 to L. 100, L. 200, and L. 300. The rest of the inhabitants are tradesmen or artificers, a few cottagers and day-labourers. These last, and a few young men who hire themselves for domestic service in the winter, are employed in ditching, draining, fishing, and working on the roads during the summer season. This increases the difficulty of procuring men servants, and enhances their wages. It may likewise be observed, that the increase of the linen manufacture, and the late introduction of machinery into that department, occasion a scarcity of female-servants. Many young women, who used to go into service, find it more advantageous to stay at home and spin for the manufacturer, or to purchase lint and dispose of the yarn. By this mode of life, they feel themselves independent, and more at their own disposal, which is no doubt an additional motive for preferring it. But they overlook the ill consequence of their choice to health and vigour of constitution, which is more than a balance for all their advantages. Their sedentary life, and  
want



want of proper exercise; their eager application and scanty provision, are all circumstances which conspire to enfeeble the constitution, produce nervous disorders, and bring on sexual infirmities, which render life uncomfortable, and hurry them into premature old age\*. As to the general character of the people here, it is but justice to say, that with a few exceptions, and such there always will be in every collection of human beings, they are a sober, peaceable, industrious set of persons; apparently contented in their various situations. Crimes of an atrocious or capital nature are scarcely known among them, or indeed any which require the interference of the civil judge. Even that species of licentiousness, so prevalent in many other places, I mean the illicit commerce of the sexes, is far from being frequent here. Many years elapse without a single instance of this immorality; a circumstance which deserves to be mentioned to their praise. They are in general decent and regular in their attendance on the public institutions of religion; and as far as external appearances can ascertain the character, they are to be reckoned well disposed, religious in their sentiments, and in general cautious and prudent

\* *Price of Labour and Provisions.*—This article is greatly enhanced of late. In consequence of the increase of riches, the great quantity of fictitious specie by the substitution of paper or notes, by means of which almost every transaction is carried on; and on account of the scarcity of hands, by the increase of labour, workmen of all descriptions have raised their wages to nearly double of what they used to be 20 years ago. The day-labourer has from 10 d. to 1 s. a-day; carpenters, the same; masons, 1 s. 4 d.; tailors, 8 d.; all with victuals. Other tradesmen, as smiths, weavers, &c. work by the piece, and have advanced their demands in the same proportion.—Perth is the market for household provisions; and is, in general, well supplied with beef, mutton, veal and pork, in their season, from 3 d. to 4 d. the lb.; also with fish from the coast of Fife, and salmon from the Tay and Earn; but both these are rather scarce and dear at present.



prudent in their conduct. There are a few families of Se-  
ceders ; no Episcopalians or Papists. A great change has of  
late taken place with respect to dress. The coarse garb of  
the lower classes of the people, which satisfied their plain  
and homely predecessors, is exchanged for showy and ex-  
pensive garments. On every public occasion they exhibit  
an appearance of neatness and elegance, which a few years  
ago would have been considered as highly extravagant.  
As this is an agreeable object in itself, when kept within  
proper bounds ; so it affords a proof of the increasing riches  
of the country, and the growing taste of the people. The  
better sort of farmers possess good houses and comfortable  
accommodation for their families ; live in a style of wealth  
and plenty ; and notwithstanding high rents and great wages  
to servants and labourers, are able to vie with many pro-  
prietors themselves, in point of dress, furniture and table :  
A plain proof of their superior skill, and great improve-  
ments in agriculture \*.

*Stipend,*

\* *Language.*—The language spoken here is Scotch, with a provincial  
accent or tone ; the pronunciation rather slow and drawling, and apt to  
strike the ear of a stranger as disagreeable. The language of all ranks,  
however, is improving by a more liberal education, and a more extensive  
intercourse with society. No Gaelic is spoken here at present, or under-  
stood by the inhabitants ; but it is said to have been the common lan-  
guage not only here in the neighbourhood of the Grampians, but even  
through the whole county of Fife, not above two or three generations  
back. An anecdote, communicated by a gentleman to the writer of this  
paper, gives countenance to this report : “ By a letter,” says he, “ which  
I had from Sir James Foulis of Colington, Baronet, a number of years  
ago, he informed me, that when young he had it from an old man, who  
spoke Gaelic, that even in his time it was almost the universal language  
of Fife.” Be this as it may, it appears from the names of several places  
here, that they are of Gaelic extraction : for instance, *Balmanno*, ‘ The  
Town of the Monk ;’ *Kilknockie*, ‘ A Cell or holy Ground, or Burial-  
place on the Hill ;’ *Mundie*, ‘ The Hill or Moss of God ;’ *Tildie*, ‘ The  
Residence of the Bard of God, &c. These names seem to have a refer-  
ence



*Stipend, School, Poor, &c.*—The church and manse are both old buildings, and have received frequent partial repairs. The latter of these continues, notwithstanding, a very damp and uncomfortable habitation. The Crown is patron. The stipend consists of a little more than 4 chalders of victual, wheat barley and meal, and L. 36 : 7 : 9 money, and a few bolls of coals. The glebe is 4 acres and about 16 falls or roods. There is no grass; in lieu of which, the heritors pay the minister L. 20 Scots; a very unequal compensation, at present, for the maintenance of a horse and two cows.—There is no school or school-house in the parish. The school, at present, is taught in a small confined apartment, in a private house, and the schoolmaster has a single room for himself, in the same house; for each of these, the heritors pay 15s. yearly. The salary is only 100 merks. The school-fees are small, and the other emoluments few. These unfavourable circumstances have occasioned a rapid succession of teachers, within these last 20 years. Every vacant school is an object to a person who finds himself so inconveniently situated, and every change of a master interrupts and retards the education of youth.—There are no funds for the poor, except what arise from the weekly collections, which, as no heritor resides, are but small, and from the use of the mortcloths. These together afford but a scanty provision for the poor. No assessment is laid upon the heritors, who, on account of their non-residence, contribute nothing to the funds. They have however, been indebted to the generosity of one of the heritors, the proprietor of Potty, who has at different times voluntarily

ence to some religious establishment with which they were connected; and it is not improbable they might be detached but dependent parts of the abbey of Lindores; the ruins of which still remain in the vicinity of the town of Newburgh, about 6 miles from this.



voluntarily contributed to the support and increase of the funds. The poor are happily not numerous, and none are permitted to beg. There is a small piece of ground, about 7 acres, adjoining to the minister's glebe, which was mortified by a Mr William Bell, minister here, 1641, and afterward translated to the parish of Errol, for the purpose of maintaining a student of divinity; the management and disposal of this mortification is in the hands of the presbytery of Perth, who let the lands, and appoint the rent to be paid annually as a bursary to the student whom they have chosen, and who continues in the possession of it for 4 years. They are obliged to attend the university of St Andrew's. The present rent of these lands is 12 guineas, exclusive of all public burdens, which are likewise to be paid by the tenant. Ministers sons in the presbytery are preferred to all others.

*Ale-houses.*—There are only 3 ale-houses, and these at smiths shops, places of general resort, where both the idle and the active meet. Every where they are the coffee-houses of the parish, where all the news and reports in circulation, be they of what complexion they will, true or false, probable or improbable, are brought together from every quarter, and disseminated with a credulous assent over all the neighbourhood. Even the politics of the nation, are, at times, discussed here with freedom, and decided on with confidence. These are, however, but harmless and innocent matters, compared with that pernicious custom of drinking and soaking, of which they are too frequently the occasion. It were much to be wished, that houses for selling spiritous liquors were less frequent. The pernicious practice of dram-drinking, now so common, in consequence of the low price of spirits, and the easy terms on which the law allows them to be retailed, has a  
most



most unhappy influence, as well on the health as the morals of the people. Even the honest and industrious labourer is sometimes inadvertently drawn into this destructive practice. Exhausted by his daily labour, and at times by more violent exertion, he feels the necessity of some cordial to recruit the wasted powers of nature, and simply swallows a poison for a cordial; he feels from it a temporary flow of animal spirits, but is not aware that it wastes the constitution it seems to invigorate; and when it grows into a habit, destroys in the end his health, his substance, and his virtue. Were ale or beer of a good quality, and moderate strength, to be had at an easy rate, it would prove, when temperately used, a very wholesome and recruiting beverage. In these interesting views, it may be supposed an object worthy the attention of the Legislature.

*Antiquities.*—There have been in former times 2 small chapels in this parish. One of these, which stood in the east corner of the parish, is now totally in ruins, no vestige of it remaining, except some part of the foundation below ground, and human skulls and bones, which are sometimes dug up, or discovered in the face of a bank, where the soil is washed away by the impetuous torrents of the Farg, on the verge of which it has stood, just at the place where it issues from the mountains into the plain. The other is in the west end of the parish, and still remains in a ruinous state; the walls are tolerably entire, with an inclosed burial-ground around it, which is still the place of interment for many families in the parish and neighbourhood. This part of the parish, which is entirely separated from the rest, by an interjacent part of the parish of Dumbarnie, bears the name of Ecclesiamagirdle, the origin of which is uncertain; but probably has been given in honour of some saint; some explain it to signify “The church of St Mag-

Vol. IX. 3 P “dalen”



“dalen.” These chapels may probably have been places of worship, erected for the conveniency of the religious in this corner, who were dependents on the Abbey of Lindores.

*Singular Phenomenon.*—In that part of the Ochils which fronts the house of Ecclesiamagirdle, a very singular phenomenon took place about 7 years ago. After a long series of rainy weather, the hill, about 100 paces from the summit, burst open with a loud explosion like thunder, which was heard at the distance of two miles across the valley. A violent and rapid torrent, mixed with earth and stone, and broken rock, issued from the opening, and rushed down with an impetuosity which swept all before it; the inhabitants of some houses which stood immediately below, alarmed at once with the noise and torrent, which directed its course full towards them, were preparing to flee for their safety, when happily the torrent deviated into a different tract, and after continuing to flow for 10 or 12 hours, it ceased, without having done any material injury, and has remained quiet ever since.

*Water-Fall.*—In one of those chasms or gullies, by which the face of the Ochil hills is frequently intersected, nature has formed a small romantic scene, beautifully diversified. Nearly opposite to the church and manse, in a deep hollow, and in the concealed bosom of the gully, is a little cascade, which, though on a humble scale, is a curiosity of its kind. The access to it is difficult, which is by ascending up the rivulet, which flows down a deep and narrow gulph, affording little more than a passage for the stream, where the way is obstructed by huge stones, shelving rocks, furze, and spots of marsh. The difficulty of the ascent, however, is abundantly compensated by the romantic variety of the scene.



scene. You see the current sliding from rock to rock, or gushing into little cavities formed by its perpetual lapse, pleasing at once the eye and the ear by its murmurs and meanders. When you reach the fall itself, you enter a kind of open grotto, surrounded with rocks, and shaded with trees, whose tops nearly close over the head, and cast a gloom, which adds to the romantic appearance of the scene. The precipice itself, which is directly in front, is a rugged perpendicular rock, which bends itself on each side into a semicircular form, inclosing a neat pebbly basin, into which the descending torrent throws itself. In its usual state it is but a scanty rill; but when swelled by winter rains or bursts of thunder clouds, it assumes a formidable aspect, rolls along a deep and turbid stream, and gushes over the rock from its narrow channel with violence and precipitation, dashing into the pool below with a hideous noise, which stuns the ear, and reverberates from rock to rock on every side.

*Rocking Stone.*—On the south descent of the hill, opposite to the church and manse, stands what is called the Rocking stone of Dron, presenting at once a monument of ancient ingenuity and superstition. It is a large mass of whinstone, of an irregular figure, about 10 feet in length, and 7 in breadth, and stands in a sloping direction. On gently pressing the higher end with the finger, it has a perceptible motion, vibrating in an arch of between one and two inches, and the vibration continues for some time after the pressure is removed. It is placed on a flat stone in the earth, which, doubtless, has a small, though invisible excavation, to receive its central prominence, and to prevent it being thrown off its balance. Neither Buchanan, who has mentioned the rocking stone of Balvaird, in his elegant History of Scotland, nor any other author, recollected at present



present by the writer of this, has taken any notice of the rocking stone of Dron. That of Balvaird stands at the distance of between 2, 3 miles east, on the banks of the Farg, in the parish of Abernethy; but its motion is not now perceptible, being choked up with earth and gravel close to its centre. For what particular purposes these stones, so artfully formed, were erected, is at this distance of time a matter rather of conjecture than certainty; but little doubt can be entertained, that they were designed to be the silent instruments of imposition on the credulity and ignorance of the vulgar; the ingenious but dishonest contrivance of the priest, or the politician, to serve their own interested views. It may be observed here, as a sort of curiosity, that from the great height of the Ochil hills, a number of houses in this parish, which lie at the foot of these hills, are deprived of the sun for 3 months of the winter, from the beginning of November to the beginning of February, during which period, the rigours of that season must be more severely felt by the inhabitants; and scanty fires, (where fuel is scarce and distant), afford but a sorry substitute for the cheerful rays and genial influences of that all animating luminary.



NUMBER XXXIII.

PARISH of CAPUTH,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,  
PRESBYTERY OF DUNKELD.)

By the Rev. Mr WILLIAM INNERARITY.

*Name, Situation and Extent.*

THE ancient name of the parish was *Capoch*; its modern name is *Caputh*, and is probably derived from the Gaelic word *Keapoch*, 'a decayed wood;' but from what circumstance this name took its rise does not appear. It is situated in that district of Perthshire which is called the Stormont, and comprehends the greater part of the plain of the Stormont, (a portion of the extensive vale of Strathmore). In the Lives of the Bishops of Dunkeld, by Alexander Mylne\*, Canon of Dunkeld, it is related, that

Bishop

\* He lived in the times of George Brown, Bishop of Dunkeld, from 1484 to 1514, and of his successor, the celebrated Gavin Douglas, to whom his work is dedicated. The original M. S. is in the possession of the Duke of Athole.



Bishop Brown, in the year 1500, divided the parish of Little Dunkeld into the old parish of Little Dunkeld and the parish of Caputh; and, "at Caputh he built, on his own charges, a quire, with painted cieling and glazed windows. He gave for the support of the vicar, a vicarage, which had been formerly united to his own see, four acres of glebe-land, and the rising ground called the Mute Hill \*, to build a church upon." The parish is singular in its extent; for besides what lies contiguous, there are several distinct unconnected portions belonging to it, some in the county of Perth, and some in the county of Forfar, 8 or 10, and even 20 or 25 miles from the church †. It is difficult to give a satisfactory reason for such peculiarities. May it not be supposed, that those distant places belonged anciently to some considerable proprietors in this parish, whose desire of having all their estates in one parish ‡, occasioned these extraordinary

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\* Hence it appears, that the mount on which the church is built, (now called the Kirkhill), was the place where, in ancient times, public justice was administered. It stands 260 yards from the bank of the Tay, on a gentle declivity, in a beautiful and romantic situation.

† These it seems not improper to enumerate: Balholmie, locally situated in the parish of Cargill; West and Middle Gormack, in Kinloch; East and West Logie, Cairns, Chappelton, Meadows and Crofty, in Clunie; and Craigtown of Dalrulzian, in Kirkmichael; all in Perthshire: And South Bandirran, in Collace; Balbeuchly, in Aughterhouse; Broughtay castle and fishings, and a small piece of ground at Mylnfield, near Dundee; and Fofarty in Kinnettles; all in Forfarshire. In Fofarty there is a field of about 4 acres called, from time immemorial, "The Minister of Caputh's Glebe," and is believed to belong to him, though not hitherto occupied.

‡ The following words of Dr Johnston may seem to favour this conjecture: "When Christianity was established in this island, a regular mode of public worship was prescribed. Public worship requires a public place; and the proprietors of lands, as they were converted, built churches for their families and vassals. For the maintenance of ministers, they settled a certain portion of their lands; and a district, through which each



extraordinary annexations? Besides these remote portions, (which are considered as belonging, *quoad sacra*, to the parishes in which they are respectively situated), the parish is of considerable extent, stretching from N. W. to S. E. nearly 13 miles, and varying in its breadth from 1 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

*Soil and Land, Floods.* — The soil is various. On the high grounds it is mostly a cold wet clay. On the banks of the Tay and Isla, it is in general a light loam. The ground is so flat, that when these rivers are flooded, they overflow many hundred acres. Four remarkable floods have happened in the Tay, in the course of 30 years, in 1761, 1780, 1789 and 1791. In the spring of the year 1790, in consequence of gradual breaches made by the river on the green Inch, below Inchtuthel, two oak trees were uncovered. The trunk of the largest, from the root to the lowest branch, was 40 feet 6 inches long, and contained 132 feet 9 inches of solid measure. As similar oaks have been often discovered near the place, by means of similar encroachments on the bank, in the spring and autumnal floods, it appears in the highest degree probable, that they had grown on the spot. Hence we are led to believe, agreeably to traditionary accounts, that the country was well wooded in former times. The Tay has undoubtedly taken various directions, at different periods, through the plain. Delvin, though now and for many ages situated on the north, is said to have been on the south side of the river \*. It seems, however, more likely that it was always occasionally

each minister was required to extend his care, was, by that circumscription, constituted a parish. This is a position so generally received in England, that the extent of a manor, and of a parish, are regularly received for each other." Boswell's Life of Johnson, vol. I. p. 410.

\* See Pennant's Tour, quoted below.



sionally insulated by the Tay; and this supposition is favoured by its situation, and by its ancient name, *Inch-tutbel*, that is, an "island in a flooded stream."

*Hills and Woods.*—The north and west parts of the parish are hilly, and contain quarries of excellent blue flates, which are sold on the spot at L. 1 the thousand, and are carried to a considerable distance. The higher hills are covered with heath, mixed with dwarf juniper, the lower with furze and broom. They are generally of a rocky appearance. Some of the latter are clothed with natural woods of oak, ash, birch and hazel; others have been planted with firs, larches, and other forest-trees, of which large plantations have likewise been formed in the low part of the parish, within the last 20 or 30 years; but there is still need of more woods, not only for shelter and for ornament, but also to supply the inhabitants with fuel and timber.

*Climate, Distempers, &c.*—The air is dry and healthy, but sensibly different in the N. and S. parts of the parish, being temperate on the banks of the Tay and the Isla, and cold and keen on the hills\*. About 50 years ago, the ague was very prevalent in the plain; but since the marshy grounds were drained, it has disappeared. The disorders mostly to be met with, are hysterical and nervous affections, consumptions, and worms. The violent nervous symptoms with

\* Having been favoured with a state of Fahrenheit's thermometer for the last 10 years, taken at Delvin, at 11 o'clock at night, I subjoin an abstract of the greatest and least heights. To this I am enabled to add a similar abstract of the greatest and least heights taken at the same hour in Queen-Street, Edinburgh, for the same years. From these abstracts an idea may be formed of the general temperature of this climate compared with that of the capital. Delvin is in  $56^{\circ} 33'$  North Latitude.



## ABSTRACT of the STATE of the THERMOMETER at DELVIN for 10 Years.

of Caputh.

|           | 1783.         | 1784.         | 1785.         | 1786.         | 1787.         | 1788.         | 1789.         | 1790.         | 1791.         | 1792.         |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| January   | 46            | 41            | 48            | 50            | 50            | 46            | 46            | 49            | 43            | 43            |
| February  | 49            | 40            | 42            | 45            | 48            | 48            | 48            | 46            | 48            | 48            |
| March     | 47            | 23            | 48            | 45            | 31            | 43            | 31            | 33            | 29            | 28            |
| April     | 53            |               | 55            | 52            | 29            | 47            | 24            | 49            | 28            | 46            |
| May       | 54            | 56            | 54            | 55            | 34            | 35            | 37            | 40            | 38            | 51            |
| June      | 56            | 41            | 67            | 61            | 40            | 47            | 43            | 42            | 37            | 56            |
| July      | 64            | 57            | 64            | 59            | 35            | 60            | 48            | 48            | 50            | 62            |
| August    | 66            | 47            | 59            | 59            | 47            | 46            | 48            | 46            | 42            | 43            |
| September | 58            | 60            | 60            | 53            | 49            | 58            | 40            | 58            | 36            | 57            |
| October   | 57            | 49            | 56            | 55            | 33            | 55            | 31            | 40            | 32            | 53            |
| November  | 49            | 47            | 49            | 45            | 21            | 50            | 29            | 22            | 30            | 56            |
| December  | 47            | 52            | 43            | 45            | 18            | 44            | 32            | 23            | 17            | 52            |
|           | 10            | 19            | 22            | 24            | 18            | 8             | 48            | 23            | 39            | 26            |
|           | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. | Great height. |
|           | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. | Least height. |

## Abstract of the State of the Thermometer in Queen-Street, Edinburgh, for 10 Years.

|           |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| January   | 48 | 24 | 48 | 47 | 24 | 52 | 17 | 51 | 32 | 48 | 26 | 52 | 23 | 49 | 34 | 47 | 31 | 47 | 20 |
| February  | 51 | 25 | 47 | 39 | 20 | 47 | 25 | 48 | 32 | 45 | 28 | 49 | 34 | 51 | 36 | 46 | 26 | 50 | 33 |
| March     | 49 | 26 | 42 | 42 | 21 | 44 | 23 | 48 | 34 | 49 | 22 | 40 | 28 | 52 | 37 | 48 | 30 | 49 | 27 |
| April     | 55 | 37 | 45 | 56 | 27 | 57 | 32 | 49 | 34 | 59 | 34 | 51 | 32 | 52 | 35 | 50 | 37 | 52 | 35 |
| May       | 55 | 38 | 56 | 50 | 36 |    |    | 57 | 41 | 67 | 42 | 59 | 39 | 52 | 44 | 55 | 37 | 52 | 39 |
| June      | 67 | 39 | 58 | 71 | 43 |    |    | 60 | 36 | 61 | 49 | 57 | 46 | 50 | 46 | 62 | 36 | 58 | 47 |
| July      | 67 | 51 | 59 | 65 | 52 | 61 | 48 | 61 | 48 | 62 | 51 | 59 | 49 | 62 | 48 | 63 | 49 | 61 | 49 |
| August    | 64 | 49 | 61 | 60 | 48 | 61 |    | 61 | 48 |    |    | 64 | 52 | 62 | 48 | 63 | 50 | 64 | 40 |
| September | 58 | 44 | 59 | 62 | 37 | 56 | 37 | 58 | 43 |    |    | 59 | 44 | 55 | 43 | 55 | 38 | 56 | 39 |
| October   | 59 | 35 | 48 | 58 | 29 | 57 | 34 | 53 | 41 | 54 | 47 | 57 | 36 | 59 | 40 | 55 | 38 | 53 | 37 |
| November  | 53 | 31 | 49 | 51 | 29 | 46 | 31 | 49 | 28 | 55 | 32 | 48 | 34 | 49 | 31 | 52 | 33 | 56 | 31 |
| December  | 48 | 11 | 84 | 45 | 18 | 51 | 20 | 54 | 29 | 43 | 26 | 51 | 33 | 48 | 28 | 41 | 19 | 51 | 29 |



with which the country people are sometimes seized, are supposed to be owing to their extreme inattention to their drink and clothing, when they are over heated by their summer work. Spinning, which is the employment of the young women during the winter months, is justly reckoned the occasion of consumptions among them, by the waste of *saliva* requisite in that laborious exercise. Some medical practitioners think, that worms in children are the effects of their living so much on potatoes, which they prefer to oat-meal. The people in general have weak eyes, from the smoke of their houses, and fine teeth even to old age.

*Lakes and Fishings.*—Through the middle of the Stormont, runs a chain of small lakes, The lochs of Craighish, of Lows, of Butterstown, of Cluny, and of Drumelzie. They are connected by the rivulet or burn of Lunan; which taking its rise in the first, passes through all the rest, and at its mouth, where it falls into the Isla, forms the eastern boundary of this parish. The three first mentioned lochs are wholly in the parish, and it touches the other two on their south sides. Excellent pikes, perches, trouts, and eels, are found in them. The salmon-fishing in the Tay is now inconsiderable; and the price is so much enhanced by the great demand for the London market, that little is left for the use of the country. The salmon caught in the Isla is inferior both in size and quality to that in the Tay.

*Migratory Birds.*—Of these, the cuckoo, swallow, lap-wing, sandy-lark, plover, rail or corncock, seagull, sea-magpie, pictarny or kittywake, curlew or whaap, and clocharret, are summer birds. The fieldfare, woodcock, and wild-geese, are winter birds. The swallow appears about the 14th of April; the earliest time of the cuckoo's being heard, is the 25th of April, but usually not before the 2d or



or 3d of May. It is heard till the 10th of June, and last year, as late as the 3d of July.

*Population.*—It is a subject of regret, that the session records of country parishes have been generally kept in a manner so slovenly and negligent, that it is now almost impossible to form a just estimate of their population a century ago, or even less. There is also a peculiar difficulty in making such an estimate with regard to this parish. Previous to the year 1728, its population was greater than it could be expected to be at any subsequent period; because those distant parts (already noticed) which are locally situated in Cluny and Kinloch, and those which are immediately adjacent to the town of Dunkeld on the N. and W. were then joined respectively to these parishes *quoad sacra*, in consequence of a formal recommendation of the Presbytery; and from that time ceased to be under the inspection of the minister of Caputh. With respect to the following lists taken from the parish-register, it is to be remarked, 1. That many children in distant parts of the parish, not being baptized by the minister, are neglected to be registered by the parents. 2. That many of the inhabitants bury in other parishes, and never pay the tax imposed by act of Parliament in 1783, which, being unpopular, is not collected in some places. No accurate conclusion, therefore, can be drawn from these lists of

| Years.    | Births. | Marriages. | Deaths. |
|-----------|---------|------------|---------|
| 1785,     | 47      | 16         | 14      |
| 1786,     | 41      | 18         | 21      |
| 1787,     | 39      | 30         | 21      |
| 1788,     | 41      | 16         | 18      |
| 1789,     | 39      | 21         | 14      |
| 1790,     | 39      | 21         | 18      |
| 1791,     | 38      | 20         | 13      |
| According |         |            |         |



According to Dr Webster's report, the population at that time was 2048. The first enumeration of the inhabitants made by the present incumbent, was from June 1784 to April 1785, when the number of souls was 2023. In the list made from November 1791 to October 1792, the numbers were 2045.

|                   |           |                     |            |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|------------|
| Males above 10, - | 585       | Females above 10, - | 703        |
| — under 10, -     | 217       | — under 10, -       | 228        |
| Men servants, -   | 183       | Maid servants, -    | 129        |
|                   | <hr/> 985 |                     | <hr/> 1060 |

Of the Established Church 1974, Episcopalians 27, Antiburgher Seceders 39, Roman Catholics 2, of the Relief Congregation 3. There are,

|                           |                           |    |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----|
| Presbyterian clergyman, 1 | Boatmen, - - -            | 8  |
| Episcopal ditto, - 1      | Shoemakers, - - -         | 12 |
| Farmers of L. 50 rent     | Tailors, - - -            | 19 |
| and upwards. - 16         | Blacksmiths, - - -        | 10 |
| — from L. 50 to           | Coopers, - - -            | 3  |
| L. 10 rent, and a         | Millers, - - -            | 7  |
| great number of           | Day-labourers, - -        | 47 |
| smaller tenants, - 90     | Alehouse-keepers, -       | 4  |
| Stampmaster, - 1          | Distillers, - - -         | 2  |
| Weavers, - - - 130        | Shopkeepers, or petty re- |    |
| Masons, - - - 24          | tailors, - - -            | 4  |
| Wrights, - - - 30         | Flax-dressers, - -        | 10 |
| Boatwright, - - 1         | Gardeners, - - -          | 7  |
| Wheelwrights, - - 2       |                           |    |

There are 456 inhabited houses, that is, separate dwellings; of which 411 are inhabited by married, widowers, and widows, and 45 by unmarried of either sex. Hence the



the average number of persons to each house, is somewhat more than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  \*.

*Cattle, Grain, &c.*—In the parish are horses, black cattle, swine, sheep, foxes, hares, rabbits, badgers, &c. The horses and black cattle of the *braes*, or hilly part, are small sized. In the low country, both cattle and horses (especially the latter,) have of late years been much improved in size and goodness. Sheep, which formerly abounded throughout the parish, were banished from the low grounds when the planting of forest-trees became an object of importance to the proprietors. They are of the small Scots breed, (except a few in the neighbourhood of gentlemens seats,) and confined to the hilly part of the parish. There are 570 horses, 2061 black cattle, 1800 sheep, 178 ploughs, 402 carts. The Scots plough is much used; but the English plough is daily gaining ground. There is a map of the parish in Stobie's map of the counties of Perth and Clackmannan, published in 1783, but it is not accurate. The number of acres has not been ascertained. But from a calculation made with great exactness, it appears, that besides supplying itself with grain, the parish sells annually, at an average, 4000 bolls of barley, which are mostly carried out

\* Few remarkable instances of longevity have lately occurred in the parish. One man died, during the incumbency of the present minister, who was above 90; a gentlewoman 88 years of age; and a considerable number between 80 and 90. An instance worthy of notice, is a man now in his 85th year; who in his youth being crossed in love, became crazed, and has continued through life, indolent, harmless, contented, temperate, and even indifferent about food. For many years, he resided either in an open shed or a hayloft, lying among straw, having only an old blanket around him; apparently without sleep, yet in perfect health. He has a fine face and figure. His incoherencies are chiefly on the subject of war, and the French. He still possesses a retentive memory, and is famed in the country for his penetration and acuteness, his repartees and moral sayings.



out of it; there being no brewery, and only two small distilleries: Whereas about 30 years ago, hardly 1500 bolls were fold out of the parish\*.

\* *Ancient State of the Parish.*—To give a general notion of the former, compared with the present state of the parish, the following facts relative to the mode of cultivation, &c. 50 or 60 years ago, are subjoined; which are derived from the information of some intelligent farmers, who speak from their own knowledge. There were for the most part 8 tenants in one farm or township, and the whole farm was run-rig; that is, one ridge belonged to one, the next to another, the third to a third person, &c. The ground was divided into infield and outfield. The infield was constantly cropped, either with oats or bear; one ridge being oats, the other bear, alternately. There was no other crop, except a ridge of flax, where the ground was thought proper for it. The outfield was ploughed three years for oats, and then pastured 5 or 6 years with horses, black cattle, and sheep. In order to dung it, they made folds of sod for the cattle; and what were called flakes or rails of wood, removable at pleasure, for folding the sheep. On the field thus teathed, they had their best crops for two years. A farmer who rented 60, 80, or 100 acres, was sometimes under the necessity of buying meal for his family in the summer season: Nor will this appear wonderful, when it is considered, that 15 bolls of bear have of late years been produced upon the same field, where 50 thrave (1200 sheaves) formerly grew, which the owner said "he would give for 50 bear bannocks," (barley cakes.) This little anecdote is characteristic of the times, though allowance be made for the exaggeration of disappointment. The rent of land was about a fifth of the present rent. The ploughs and carts were usually made by the farmer himself; with little iron about the plough, except the coulter and share; none upon the cart or harrows; no shoes upon the horses; no hempen ropes. In short, every instrument of farming was procured at small expense, wood being at a very low price. Salt was a shilling the bushel: Little soap was used: they had no candles, instead of which they split the roots of fir trees, which, though brought 50 or 60 miles from the Highlands, were purchased for a trifle. Their clothes were of their own manufacturing. The average price of weaving ten yards of such cloth was a shilling, which was paid partly in meal and partly in money. The tailor worked for a quantity of meal, suppose 3 pecks or a firloft a-year, according to the number of the farmer's family. They ploughed with horses and oxen together; 2 horses before four or six oxen; and sometimes only with oxen. The time of sowing and reaping was much the same as it is now. After harvest, they pastured in common. No marl or lime had at that

time



*Size of Farms, Crops, Rent, &c.*—Farms are in general small; many under 40 acres, and from 40 to 60 or 80; seldom above 100. There are two tenants, who, renting two or three farms, have in their possession 150 or 160 acres. A threshing mill was erected in 1792 by a spirited farmer, on a farm of 120 acres. The principal crops in the parish are, oats, barley or bear, pease and flax. Wheat has been sometimes tried by way of experiment; but a crop of barley is more profitable. The culture of potatoes is universal. Turnips are cultivated only in the south and east parts of the parish, where the soil is light and warm. Early oats are sown in the N. W. part of the parish, where the soil is cold. A great quantity of clover and ryegrass is sown usually among barley. Oats are sown from  
the

time been found in the parish. The country was uninclosed, except what was in the immediate neighbourhood of the houses of great proprietors. In the year 1735, the best ploughman was to be had for L. 8 Scots (13 s. 4 d.) a-year, and what was termed a bounty, which consisted of some articles of clothing, and might be estimated at 11 s. 6 d.; in all L. 1, 4 s. 10 d. Sterling. Four years after, his wages rose to L. 24 Scots, (L. 2) and the bounty. Female servants received L. 2. Scots, (3 s. 4 d.) and a bounty of a similar kind; the whole not exceeding 6 s. or 7 s. Some years after their wages rose to 15 s. Men received for harvest-work L. 6 Scots, (10 s.); Women, L. 5 Scots, (8 s. 4 d.). Poultry was sold at 40 pennies Scots, ( $3\frac{1}{3}$  d.) Oat-meal, bear and oats, at L. 4 or L. 5 Scots the boll. A horse that then cost 100 merks Scots, (L. 5 : 11 :  $1\frac{1}{3}$ ) would now cost L. 25. An ox that cost L. 20 Scots (L. 1 : 13 : 4) would now be worth L. 8 or L. 9. Beef and mutton were sold, not by weight, but by the piece; about 3 s. 4 d. for a leg of beef of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  stones; and so in proportion. No tea nor sugar was used: Little whisky was drunk, and less of other spirits: but they had plenty of good ale; there being usually one malt-barn (perhaps two) on each farm. They caught abundance of salmon in the Tay; 150 have been taken in one night, with very imperfect nets, in a space not exceeding 200 yards in length. For many years past, they have not caught as many in one season, and in the whole parish. Neither was salmon sold by weight: One could have been purchased for 18 pence which would now cost 18 shillings, at the same season of the year.



the middle of March to the middle of April; barley from the middle of April to the end of May; potatoes and pease from the middle to the end of April; flax from the 23d of April to the 10th of May; turnips from the 1st of June to the middle of July, all in drills, except what are late sown, and intended to shoot out in the following spring. Yams for horses have been lately introduced, and planted somewhat sooner than potatoes. Some English rye is sown in October. Hay harvest commences the second week of July; barley and rye harvest, the first week of September; pease and oats the second week of that month; and in some seasons, they are all more early. But these dates, both of sowing and reaping, refer chiefly to the low country; in the hilly parts of the parish, they are in general 10 days later\*. The parish owes much of its improvement to the late John Mackenzie, Esq; of Delvin. By directing the attention of the trustees for manufactures, &c. to this part of the country, by bestowing well-judged rewards and giving encouragement in various ways, he excited a spirit of industry and improvement, which has operated with energy and success. The valued rent of the parish is L. 9369 : 3 : 4 Scots. The real rent, (including the rent of houses and fishings, and reckoning the victual-rent at

15 s.

\* The names of places are mostly derived from the Gaelic: As, Inch-tuthel, or Innis-tuile, 'The Island in a flooded Stream.' Dungarthill, or Dungart, 'The round Hill in the Corn-field,' ('Hill' is a modern addition). Kincairney, or Keancairnrie, 'The Top or Head of the King's Cairn.' Cairnmure, or Cairnmore, 'The great Cairn or Heap.' Aird, 'A Height.' Drummahaty, or Drummartie, 'The gravelly ridge.' Drumbeltie, 'The Ridge of Beltin,' or, 'The Fire of Bel on May-day.' Fongorth, 'The hungry Soil;' or Fonnart, 'The Land of Stones.' Dalbeathy, 'The Birch Haugh,' &c.—Some are Saxon: As, Denhead; Stenton, that is, Stane-town or Stone-town; Haughend, Birkenburn, Meiklour, Littleour, are apparently compounded from the Saxon and British: Meiklour, (situated on the Tay,) 'The great Water;' Littleour, (situated on the burn of Lunan), 'The little Water.'



15 s. the boll), amounts to L. 4826 Sterling; and if the rent of the distant portions above mentioned were taken into the account, it would amount to L. 5651. The best arable land is let from L. 1 to L. 1:11:6 the acre; the inferior kinds from 5 s. to 18 s. the acre \*.

*Stipend, Heritors, School, Poor, &c.*—The living amounts to L. 59. (including L. 5:11:1 $\frac{3}{4}$  for communion-elements), 22 bolls of oat-meal, and 10 bolls of barley, Linlithgow measure. A process for augmentation of the stipend is at present depending. The King is patron. The date of the church has been already ascertained. It is not only inconvenient in the highest degree, but too small for the parish. The manse was built in 1754, in a very insufficient manner; the offices in 1782, and are in good order. The glebe consists of about 8 Scotch acres. Taking the parish in the large extent already mentioned, there are 44 heritors or landholders in it, (of whom many are small proprietors or *portioners*;) but 5 of them are not included in the valuation of the parish. Only 4 of the greater, and 7 of the smaller proprietors, are constantly or occasionally resident: several others live in neighbouring parishes.—There is one parish school. Two at least would be necessary to accommodate the inhabitants; one in the south, and one in the north quarter. The schoolmaster's salary is L. 11:2:2 $\frac{8}{11}$ . His fees are, for teaching reading, 1 s. the quarter, for reading and writing, 1 s. 6 d. for arithmetic and Latin, 2 s. 6 d. He is also clerk to the kirk-session, with a salary of L. 2, besides perquisites. The parish-school was formerly well frequented, and of great repute

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\* *Price of Land*.—An estate of L. 87 a-year was sold in 1792 for L. 4410, being more than 50 years purchase. The lands of two portioners were lately sold; one of L. 10 a-year, for L. 412, 10 s.; the other of L. 6 a year, for L. 300. Property, however, is not often changed.



in the Stormont. The present number of scholars is about 30.—The number of poor is much diminished, in consequence of the progress of improvement and of industry. In the year 1775, the Justices of Peace for this county enacted certain regulations for suppressing vagrants and begging; and appointed lists of the poor in every parish to be made up half yearly, and their maintenance to be provided for by assessment, if it should be found requisite. The heritors and kirk-session of this parish met accordingly, and agreed to adopt the plan pointed out by the Justices of Peace: but it was not carried into effect. The list of the poor at that time contained 30; of whom 19 received assistance from the parish-funds, and 11 were allowed badges. The average amount of these funds was L. 13, 7 s. 8 d. At present, there are 12 on the poors list; and the average amount of the parish-funds, for the last 5 years, is L. 27 : 13 : 6. They receive from 2 s. to 4 s. the month; in all L. 1, 12 s.; which makes L. 19, 4 s. a-year. They also receive about L. 3, 3 s. *extra* at Martinmas for clothes and shoes: total, L. 22, 7 s. But it must be remarked, that many of them contribute towards their own support; and they have in general a laudable pride, in not requiring aid from the parish funds, as long as they can subsist without it. The kirk-session gives occasional supply to such as are less necessitous. Their clerk and beadle are likewise paid out of these funds\*.

Prices

\* About Christmas 1739 began the severest frost that had been known since the year 1715. For six weeks, from the 1st of January 1740, the river Tay was frozen over; and loaded carts passed and repassed on the ice. The crop of that year, not being fully ripened, was very deficient; and oat-meal rose, in 1741, to the enormous price of L. 12 Scots (L. 1 Sterling) the boll. At that time, the most indigent poor of the parish received 6 s. Scots, (6 d. Sterling) a-week; and those who were able to beg, 2 s. Scots, (2 d. Sterling.) The next season was as mild as the former



*Prices and Wages.*—The price of all kinds of provisions has risen considerably within these few years; that of poultry, in particular, is almost double what it was in 1783. The average price of beef, mutton, veal, lamb, and pork, through the year, is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  d. the Dutch pound. Poultry, 10 d. or 1 s.; a chicken, 3 d.; a dozen of eggs, 3 d.; butter, 6 d. the English pound; cheese from 4 s. to 6 s. the stone, of 16 pounds, the pound containing 22 ounces; potatoes, 6 d. the peck, of 2 stones Dutch or meal weight. The prices of grain are for the most part lower than in the Haddington market. As the farmers usually sell on credit, and deliver in December, January, &c. what is not to be paid till midsummer following, they get a higher price than they would otherwise receive. Barley, of crop 1791, was from 15 s. to 18 s. the boll; oats from 12 s. to 15 s.; feed oats from 16 s. to 17 s.; pease from 13 s. to 15 s.; oat-meal from 15 s. 4 d. to 16 s. The prices are in general higher for crop 1792.—Servants, both male and female, are commonly hired for the whole year. The best man servant for husbandry receives L. 10 or L. 12; an ordinary one from L. 6 to L. 8. They either have their victuals in the farmer's house, or in lieu of victuals, 6 bolls and a half of oat-meal, and milk from his dairy. Female servants receive from L. 3 to L. 4. A man, for harvest work, gets from L. 1 to L. 1, 18 s.; a woman from 16 s. to L. 1;  
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mer had been severe. The crop was uncommonly fertile, and generally got in about the middle of September N. S. Before Martinmas 1741, the price of meal fell to L. 6 Scots the boll. In consequence of the very late and unproductive crop of 1782, the price of oat-meal again rose, in the summer of 1783, to L. 1 the boll. In August that year the heritors and kirk-session directed L. 12 to be taken from the parish-funds, and distributed in the course of four weeks; and soon after, 10 bolls 1 firlok and 1 peck of the meal, which was sent to Scot'land by order of Government, were received and distributed in like manner. By these means, a temporary relief was afforded to many of the industrious poor.



a day-labourer, in summer, 1 s. a-day, or 1 s. and his victuals, in winter, 10 d.; a wright from 1 s. 2 d. to 1 s. 6 d.; a mason, 1 s. 10 d.; a tailor, 8 d. and his victuals. Weavers earn from 1 s. 4 d. to 2 s. a-day: when trade is brisk, an active workman will gain much more; for as he usually buys the yarn which he manufactures, his profits from the sale of his cloth are, in this case, very great. It is to be observed, however, that they are seldom more than 9 months engaged in weaving; that is, from Martinmas to the end of August, or beginning of September, when the lint harvest commences. The scarcity, and the consequent high wages of men servants, are chiefly owing to the numbers now employed in weaving, tempted by the profits made in this branch of manufacture \*.

*Fuel.—*

\* STATE of Earnings and Expenses of Three Families of Industrious Poor.

No. I.

A day labourer, his wife, and 4 small children, the eldest under 7 years of age, the youngest an infant.

Earnings a-week.

|                                                                                             |   |                     |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------|
| The man earns at a medium,                                                                  | — | —                   | L. 0 5 9  |
| The woman (assisted by the eldest child occasionally keeping the infant) earns by spinning, | — | —                   | 0 2 0     |
|                                                                                             |   |                     | <hr/>     |
|                                                                                             |   | Total,              | 0 7 9     |
|                                                                                             |   | Amount in the year, | L. 20 3 0 |

Expenses a-week.

|                                                 |   |                     |            |
|-------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|------------|
| Four pecks of oat-meal, and two of barley-meal, | — | —                   | L. 0 4 6   |
| Milk, salt, onions, and potatoes,               | — | —                   | 0 1 1      |
| Soap, starch, blue, and oil,                    | — | —                   | 0 0 3      |
| Butter, cheese, bacon, or other meat,           | — | —                   | 0 0 6      |
| Thread and worsted,                             | — | —                   | 0 0 1      |
|                                                 |   |                     | <hr/>      |
|                                                 |   | Total,              | 0 6 5      |
|                                                 |   | Amount in the year, | L. 16 13 8 |
|                                                 |   | Excess of earnings, | L. 3 9 4   |
|                                                 |   |                     | Annual     |



*Fuel.*—Peat and turf, (chiefly brought from a distance), broom and furze, were formerly the only fuel used in this district. To these, coal is now added, which they fetch from Perth, 10 or 11 English miles from the southmost part of the parish. Although the boll of coal, of 40 stones Dutch weight, seldom costs less than 3 s. at Perth, and has lately been greatly dearer, partly in consequence of the increased demand for it, they justly reckon it cheaper, as it is

### Annual Expenses.

|                                                                                                                   |          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| The man's wear of a suit, 4 s. ; of a working jacket and breeches, 4 s. ; of a bonnet and handkerchief, 1 s. 1 d. | L. 0 9 1 |
| Of two shirts, 8 s. ; of a pair of shoes, and two pair of stockings, 9 s.                                         | 0 17 0   |
| The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 4 s. ; of a shift, 3 s. 3 d.                                             | 0 7 3    |
| Of a pair of shoes, 4 s. and a pair of stockings, 1 s. 6 d.                                                       | 0 5 6    |
| Of an apron, 1 s. 6 d. ; of handkerchiefs, caps, &c. 3 s.                                                         | 0 4 6    |
| The childrens wear,                                                                                               | 0 15 0   |
| Lying in, loss of time by sickness and bad weather, and burials, one year with another,                           | 0 11 0   |
| Total,                                                                                                            | L. 3 9 4 |

Rent of a house and garden, L. 1. The garden, which the man dresses in the mornings and evenings, affords the family cabbages, greens, and potatoes, to the amount of the rent. Fuel costs 10 s. ; but after dunging the garden, there is a remainder of ashes, which dungs as much ground (given by the farmer) as produces potatoes worth 10 s.

### No. II.

A day-labourer, his wife, and 5 children, the eldest 9 years of age, the youngest an infant.

They have an acre of land, grass for a cow, and a house and garden ; rent, at an average, L. 2, 10 s. The eldest boy or girl earns for itself, by keeping cattle. The acre of land, &c. enables this family to gain L. 1 more a-year than No. I. They have, therefore, L. 4 : 9 : 4 for defraying annual expenses.

### No. III.



is more easily procured, than any other kind of fuel. In summer, the farmers sometimes go 30 or 40 miles to the coal

## No. III.

A weaver, his wife, and 3 small children, the eldest under 5 years of age, the youngest an infant.

## Earnings a-week.

The earnings of the man and woman cannot be separated, as they are both employed in manufacturing the same piece of cloth.

|                             |   |   |          |
|-----------------------------|---|---|----------|
| Their earnings at a medium, | — | — | L. 0 9 0 |
| Amount in the year,         |   |   | 23 8 0   |

## Expenses a-week.

|                                                  |       |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Three pecks of oat-meal, and two of barley-meal, | —     | L. 0 3 8        |
| Milk, salt, onions, and potatoes,                | —     | 0 1 0           |
| Butter, cheese, bacon, or other meat,            | — — — | 0 0 8           |
| Soap, starch, blue, and oil,                     | — — — | 0 0 6           |
| Thread, thrum, and worsted,                      | — — — | 0 0 1           |
|                                                  |       | <hr/> L. 0 5 11 |
| Amount in the year,                              |       | 15 7 3          |
| Excess of earnings,                              |       | <hr/> L. 8 0 4  |

## Annual Expenses.

|                                                                                                                  |       |                          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| The man's wear of a suit, 4s. 6d. ; of a working jacket and breeches, 4s. ; of a hat and handkerchief, 2s.       | —     | L. 0 10 6                |
| Of 2 shirts, 8s. ; of a pair of shoes and 2 pair of stockings, 9s.                                               |       | 0 17 0                   |
| The woman's wear of gown and petticoats, 5s. ; of 2 shifts, 6s. 6d. ; of a pair of shoes, 4s. ; of 2 aprons, 3s. |       | 0 18 6                   |
| Of a pair of stockings, 1s. 6d. ; of handkerchiefs, caps, &c. 7s.                                                | — — — | 0 8 6                    |
| The childrens wear,                                                                                              | — — — | 1 2 0                    |
| Fuel,                                                                                                            | — — — | 0 12 0                   |
| Lying in, sickness and loss of time thereby, and burials, one year with another,                                 | — — — | 1 5 0                    |
|                                                                                                                  |       | <hr/> Total, L. 5 13 6   |
|                                                                                                                  |       | <hr/> Balance, L. 2 6 10 |

Rent of a house and garden, L. 1. The garden, dressed by the man in the mornings and evenings, affords them cabbages, greens, and potatoes, to the amount of the rent.



coal pits in Fife, where it is purchased at a comparatively low price.

*Villages.*—There are five townships or villages, containing from 20 to 38 families; and 6, containing from 7 to 17 families. Meiklour, the largest of them, has 3 fairs for cattle in the year. At Spittalfield a stamp-office was established in 1775.

*Linen Manufacture.*—The following quantities of linen have been annually stamped here.

| From Nov. 1. 1775<br>to Nov. 1. 1776, | <i>Yards.</i> | <i>Value.</i>                |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
|                                       | 79,264        | L. 3265 15 7 $\frac{1}{2}$   |
| 1777,                                 | 88,139        | 3655 9 4                     |
| 1778,                                 | 84,821        | 3039 7 0 $\frac{3}{4}$       |
| 1779,                                 | 97,975        | 3571 14 8 $\frac{1}{4}$      |
| 1780,                                 | 103,650       | 4077 10 0                    |
| 1781,                                 | 84,312        | 3773 19 11 $\frac{1}{2}$     |
| 1782,                                 | 99,461        | 4335 7 6                     |
| 1783,                                 | 114,161       | 4635 17 10 $\frac{3}{4}$     |
| 1784,                                 | 107,326       | 4442 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$       |
| 1785,                                 | 107,653       | 4831 0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$       |
| 1786,                                 | 103,183       | 4310 10 10 $\frac{3}{4}$     |
| 1787,                                 | 105,129       | 4475 10 3 $\frac{1}{4}$      |
| 1788,                                 | 98,914        | 4079 17 6 $\frac{1}{4}$      |
| 1789,                                 | 96,794        | 3819 7 8                     |
| 1790,                                 | 102,974       | 4214 2 10 $\frac{1}{2}$      |
| 1791,                                 | 102,731       | 4418 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$       |
| 1792,                                 | 104,451       | 4610 1 8                     |
| Total in 17 years,                    | 1,680,938     | L. 69,555 13 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ |

The greatest part of this cloth is stamped unbleached. It consists of white and brown linen; the latter known by the



the name of *Scrimns* and *Silefias*. Formerly, not above one third of what was stamped was manufactured in the parish; but during the two last years, the parish manufactured about one half of the quantity stamped. Besides the above quantities, and without reckoning 12,000 yards and upwards, annually made for household use, there are about 20,000 yards manufactured in the parish, which are stamped at Blairgowrie or Dunkeld.

*Antiquities.*—About a mile and a half north-west from the church, in a very elevated situation, there is a small Druidical circle. Beside it are two large stones, deeply sunk in the ground; the top of the lowest is artificially formed into an inclined plane, facing the south, and contains a number of small cavities; which may have been used by the Druids in the performance of religious rites. Near the church, there are the remains of a *cairn*, where probably a cross had been erected during the prevalence of Popish superstition; the place still retaining the name of *Cross-cairn*. Cairnmure is the largest cairn in this country, being 456 feet in circumference, and 18 feet high. It has been lately surrounded with a row of trees and a stone wall. Above half a mile south-west from this, stands another, 357 feet in circumference, and 14 feet high. In a line with these two, and at the same distance, there is a third, of a smaller size. The top of the craig at Stenton, a mile west from the church, bears evident marks of having been a fortified spot. It is called *Kemp's Hold*, or the *Soldier's Fastness*. Some fragments of weapons were dug up about 16 years ago, when it was planted with trees. It has a very picturesque appearance. The antiquities of Inchtuthel have been described by the ingenious Mr Pennant\*. It is a flat

\* Tour in Scotland 1772, Part II. p. 67.—71 where there is an engraving of this tabulated eminence, sufficiently exact, except in the view given



of 160 Scotch acres, regularly steep on every side, and in every part of equal height, that is, about 60 feet above the great plain of the Stormont, on which it stands. Here the Picts had a town, which must have been a place of great strength, and of which the vestiges may be discerned at the south-west corner of this singular elevation. Boetius calls it *Tuline* or *Tulina*, and says, that it was populous and well fortified; but deserted and burnt by the Picts. on the approach of the Romans under Agricola: he adds, (as translated by Holinshed,) "the Scottishmen in our time call the place Inchtuthill \*." The Romans also availed themselves of this situation. Their camp stood on the north-east border, and commanded an extensive view of the plain. It is 500 yards square; the walls, to a considerable height, were strongly built, nine feet and a half thick, with stones brought from a quarry 2 miles distant; the stones have been gradually removed, and the walls are now almost levelled by the plough. In the course of ploughing, fragments of weapons, and some entire utensils, were formerly found. Here, Mr Pennant fixes the *Ærrea* of the Romans; with much greater probability than Dr Stukeley †, who supposes it to have been Perth; though in his map, he places it north-east of the Tay, and on the very spot where the present Delvin stands. There are two *tumuli* or *barrows*, and a redoubt, on the south-east side of the camp. A few years ago, the largest of these barrows was opened, and consisted of a rich black mold, possibly composed of

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given of its sides, which are represented too steep. The east and west sides are covered with thriving forest-trees, planted by the late Mr Mackenzie.

\* Boet. Hist. Scotiæ, lib. iv. p. 64. Holinshed's Historie of Scotlande, p. 52, 53

† In his account of Richard of Cirencester, quoted by Pennant.



the ashes of the funeral pyres that had been consumed there. It is now distinguished by a clump of trees. Inchtuthel is likewise believed to have been part of the land granted by Kenneth III. (who began his reign in 977,) to Hay for his bravery in the battle of Luncarty; and his descendants\* possessed it till the beginning of the 17th century. There appears to have been a Roman station 3 miles to the east of this, in the moor of Meiklour, towards the extremity of the parish. The line of the Roman military road leading thither, can be still traced through the parishes of Scone, St Martin's, and Cargill: and this road seems unquestionably to be the continuation of that which passed through Strathern, and crossed the Tay at Rome, a little to the westward of Scone, where probably there was a bridge of wood over the river †. Where the Roman road touches on the Isla, a bridge is also supposed to have stood, of which the necessity is evident, for the purpose of opening a communication from the south with the station near Meiklour, and by consequence with the champaign country, both east and west, as far as the Grampian Mountains. Here the Romans raised a wall of earth, about 24 feet thick, (for it is difficult to ascertain the exact measurement,) defended by a ditch on each side, 60 feet distant from the wall. This wall, which is now named the *Cleaving Dike*, stretched above two miles and a half, from the ancient course of the Tay to the Isla; which, by their commodious junction two miles below, completely secured the station. The space inclosed is in the form of a *delta*. In this area, there are several exploratory mounts; one, apparently artificial, (now called the *Blackbill*,

\* William 5th Earl of Errol (who succeeded in 1506) was in his father's lifetime, designed William of Caputh, and Master of Errol. Douglas's peerage.

† Appendix to Pennant's Tour, No. 15. p. 451.



*Blackbill*, and planted with firs,) stands near the head of the supposed bridge, and from the remains of a fortification on the top, seems to have been designed to cover the landing-place.—The font or vessel used in administering baptism in the church, is of a singular construction. It is made of brass,  $16\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter. On the interior surface are impressed two circular lines of words; the outer circle contains, in Roman characters, DI. DAL. WVNDI\*, five times repeated; the inner circle consists of unknown characters, four times repeated, which cannot be represented without an engraving. An exact transcript of the whole was made by me several years ago, and presented to the Antiquarian Society of Scotland.

*General Character and Condition of the People.*—The people here have an indifference, and even dislike, both to a seafaring and a military life. They prefer the occupations in husbandry or manufacture, to which they are inured from their infancy. They are rather fond of large weddings and funerals, and often incur unnecessary expense on such occasions. Of late, they have become much more studious of dress than they were, and have changed for the better their mode of living in many articles of domestic economy. They are now more attentive to cleanliness than formerly; their cottages are more substantially and commodiously built; and their condition is daily improving. On the whole, they are sober, peaceable and industrious. They are in general humane to one another, and show great kindness and sympathy to their distressed neighbours. During the last 30 years, one instance of suicide has happened; and one person has been banished. I have not heard of any person belonging to the parish having suffered capital punishment.

*Advantages*

\* I suppose the letter immediately before D to be N. If so, it is this letter inverted.



*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—A judicious observer has remarked, that the light grounds in the Stormont possess this advantage over richer and stronger soils, that though the crops are never uncommonly weighty, yet they are moderately good, in a greater variety of seasons, than in any place where his observation has reached. A new road now making to Perth by Stanley, will be of considerable utility to the parish. And consequences still more beneficial must arise from the accomplishment of a plan now in agitation, for building a bridge over the Isla, where it empties itself into the Tay, and for making a turnpike road from that bridge to Perth \*. The road between Dunkeld and Cupar in Angus passes through the middle of the parish; but, though it is a great thoroughfare, it has never been made in a sufficient manner. The statute-labour, being formerly exacted in kind, was ill adapted either to the construction or preservation of good roads. As it is now commuted, it may be reasonably expected to produce an advantageous change in the state of the roads in the county. A marl-pit has been lately drained. There is also some lime in the parish, but the want of coal renders it useless. Indeed the principal disadvantage under which the inhabitants labour, is their distance from coal, and from lime, for the purposes of agriculture. It is to be regretted, that some well directed attempts have not been made, to discover whether there is coal in this district. A matter of such importance merits a trial. Much of the parish is still unclosed. The farmers are fully sensible, that inclosures would be

\* It is at once amusing and instructive to reflect, that near the spot where the intrepid Agricola constructed a wooden bridge for transporting the troops who were to subdue the valour and ravage the fields of the brave Caledonians, the enlightened descendants of those uncivilized but generous barbarians, are about to erect a more solid structure, for the nobler purpose of advancing the cultivation and improvement of their country.



be of essential benefit to them; and from the increasing activity and spirit of the proprietors, there is every reason to believe, that in the course of not many years, the most valuable part of it will be properly divided and inclosed. Thirlage still continues in the parish, and is felt by the farmers as a grievance and a bar to improvement. For the sake of an industrious body of men, it is much to be wished, that this odious remainder of feudal tyranny were entirely abolished.

NUM-



## NUMBER XXXIV.

## PARISH OF LOGIE-COLDSTONE.

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF ABERDEEN, PRESBYTERY  
OF KINCARDINE O'NIEL.)

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT FARQUHARSON.*

*Name, Extent, Soil, &c.*

THE parish of Logie was annexed to the parish of Coldstone in 1618. The name of the parish of Logie is expressive of its local situation. It is a corruption of the word *Lag*, which in the Gaelic language, signifies a "hol-  
" low or low situation." There is no circumstance or tradition for the origin of Coldstone. Logie-Coldstone parish is 38 miles distant from Aberdeen. It lies in the upper part of the country called Cromar, a corruption of the word *Cruievar*, which in the Gaelic signifies "the bught of Mar." It is at equal distances between the rivers Dee and Don. The country is surrounded by a large ridge of hills, and is in the form of a bught or fold for holding cattle. The district is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from E. to W. and about 6 from S. to N. The soil is various. The interior  
part



part of the country is interspersed with a number of small hills, and large barren moors; a great many of which retain the marks of cultivation, by the remains of furrows and fences; but the ground is now so reduced by that barbarous practice of casting muck-feal and turf, (that is, the surface), that it produces nothing in general, but a short worthless kind of heath. Near the manse there is a small plantation of fir wood; to the S. and E. of the church, there are 5 of the same kind. Some farms on the E. and W. side of the manse, called the Easter and Western Baronies, and lands of Waterairn, are a fine rich deep loam; and though very capable of improvement, are all in a state of nature, except the farms of Kinaldie, Coldstone, and part of that of Loanhead. The first is all inclosed, and some of the fields straightened and dressed; the second was inclosed by the heritor about 14 years ago, and lies in natural grass, on which he pastures his own cattle in summer and harvest; a part of the third, which lies near the manse, is inclosed and improved. On the E. and W. side of the church, the ground is light and sandy, a great part of it of a very poor quality; in advancing farther from the church, towards the S. E. extremity, the soil is of a fine rich loam. That part of the parish called Deskrie Side, which lies on the north side of the hills, is of a cold wet mossy nature, and very subject to frost and mildews.

*Climate, Rivulets, Springs, &c.*—The air is accounted salubrious. The frost in winter is often very intense, though the country is not near so stormy as the neighbouring parishes to the N. and W. of it, such as Towie, Glenbucket, and Strathdon. There are 3 rivulets in the district, which fall into the Dee in the parish of Aboyne. They are so small in summer, that they require gathered dams to drive the meal-mills, of which there are 5 in the interior part of this district, and 1 on Deskrie Side, driven by a burn, the one side of which, for 2 miles, belongs to this parish. It falls



falls into the Don about a mile below the church of Strathdon. They all abound with fine trout. There is a loch on the south side of this district, called Lochdaven. It is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in circumference; it abounds with pike, some of them of a large size. A good many of them are taken with bait in summer. There is a mineral spring in the parish, a little to the S. of the church, called Poldow, which in the Gaelic signifies "a black pool;" the water of which, some years ago, was much and successfully used for scorbutic and gravelish disorders. It is now much deserted, since the Wells of Pananich (which are 4 miles distant) were discovered. Great crowds of the country people still resort to Poldow, and drink of the water for all disorders.

*Antiquities, Game, &c.*—The principal remains of antiquity in this parish are 3 large cairns, 1 of which, a little to the N. of the manse, is of an uncommon size. They are supposed to mark out the places where the bodies of some eminent men were interred. There are likewise Druidical fanes in different parts of the parish.—Few parishes in Scotland abound more with a greater variety of game, such as hares, snipe, moor-fowl, partridges, woodcock, a few blackcock, tarmagans, and white hares; the two latter are always to be found on the hill of Morven, which, in the Gaelic, signifies "a large hill." It is one of the highest hills in Scotland; it bounds a part of the parish on the W. There are likewise great numbers of wild ducks and geese, which, in late seasons, destroy a great part of the crop which grows on the low grounds.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 1243. The state of the parish, with respect to population, cannot be traced far back. The

writer



writer of this was settled here in 1779; the number of inhabitants since that time is considerably decreased. At that period, all the farms were occupied by tenants and subtenants; but at present there are about 20 families quite extirpated, and their possessions in natural grass. In 1780, there were 1300 souls in the parish, at present (1793) there are 1182. The annual average of births since 1780 is 23; of marriages, 10. The people follow, in general, the occupation of husbandry. There are 2 smiths, 1 carpenter, 2 shoemakers, and 4 shopkeepers, who sell small articles for the good of the country. The chief manufacture, till about 1789, was that of knitting stockings by the women, the wool brought by manufacturers from Aberdeen. For 3 years past, spinning on the two-handed wheel is much introduced, and found more profitable. The lint is given out to spin, just in the same way as the wool, by manufacturers from Aberdeen, Brechin, and as far south as Dundee. The whole inhabitants are members of the Established Church, and speak all that dialect of English, common in the north of Scotland.

*Agriculture.*—Oats and common bear are the principal productions of the parish; some pease and rye are also raised; but the quantity of these kinds of grain is but small, when compared with oats and bear. Potatoes are of late cultivated by every family, whether of farmers or labourers, for their own subsistence: a few turnips are sown, some in drills and some in broadcast; but for want of inclosures, as winter herding is not introduced, they must be pulled before they come to much perfection. The old Scots plough is almost universally used. Some of the most substantial tenants put 12 oxen in the plough, others 10, others 8, the poorer sort 2 horses and 2 cows, some of them 1 horse, 2 cows, and 2 small oxen. Clover and rye-grass have been cultivated on



the farms of Kinaldy, Blelachy, and Lonhead, with great success; but no where else, except in gardens, for want of inclosures. Many of the farmers begin to raise flax; and as there are now 2 lint-mills erected in 2 of the neighbouring parishes, Towie and Coul, it is thought it will turn out a very profitable crop. There are a good many sheep reared in the parish, the greater part of them of the black faced kind; they sell from L. 7 to L. 13 the score. Black cattle are very much degenerated for want of grass, the farmers send them all, except a few milk-cows, to pasture in glens every year about Whitsunday for 3 months; and since the sheep became numerous, they generally return as poor as when they went away. In 1780 there were 5 or 6 carts in this parish; now, in 1793, there are about 30. There are at present 4 heritors in the parish, Lord Aberdeen, Lord Strathaven, James Farquharson of Invercauld, and Charles Gordon of Blelack; the latter is the only residing heritor. The valued rent of the parish is L. 2783 Scots. Real rent L. 782, 10 s. 344 bolls 2 firlots meal, 181 bolls 1 firlot bear. The rents of the principal estates are demanded when due; with certification, that if the last farthing is not paid, the tenants (very few of them having tacks) must remove at the first term of Whitsunday. To avoid this evil, numbers of them sell meal and bear for ready money, which they have not to deliver, and at that instant buy the same back from the one they sold it to at 5 s. and 3 s. 6 d. the boll of additional price, payable 9 months after. Such as have the victual to deliver, are obliged to thresh out their crop before they have use for the straw; by which means, they lose a great deal of it, carrying it out of their barns and building it up in their yards, and it becomes dry and insipid for their cattle. By this uncommon kind of traffic, numbers are reduced to very low circumstances. All the consolation they have, is, the one part of them is taught by  
civil,



civil, the other by moral law, that "whom the Lord loves he chastises." Lord Strathaven, who got his father Lord Aboyn's property in this county made over to him 2 or 3 years ago, has altered the terms of payment of rents from Martinmas till the 8th or middle of February; and from Whitsunday till the middle of August; by which his tenants have an opportunity of making the best of their victual and cattle, and now pay their rents with much greater ease and advantage than they did formerly. If this plan were adopted by heritors in general in this country, it would be of the greatest consequence to their tenants in general, who depend chiefly on the produce of their crops for the greater part of their rents. Improvements in agriculture will never take place in this parish, until leases are granted and encouragement given for houses and inclosing; till that happen, the poor farmer will be obliged to adopt the old mode of cultivation, whether right or wrong, though the climate and soil in general are such as would produce good crops of any kind of grain used in the north of Scotland. At present the farm-houses are worth very little, and the mode of living very mean; dwelling-houses, when valued on the removal of a tenant, are appreciated from 16 s. to L. 1, 5 s. Subtenants from 5 s. to 10 s. \*

*Stipend,*

\* Servants wages since 1784 are raised near double of what they were before that time. The average rate at which men servants are hired for the year by the farmer is from L. 5, 15 s. to L. 7, 10 s. and maintained in the family; women servants usually get from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. and their maintenance. There are no alehouses in the parish; the inhabitants in general are very sober: but numbers of them are obliged by necessity to attend a weekly market at Tarland, some time before every term, to sell victual in the way already mentioned to pay their rents; by which means, they throw away a great part of their time and their subject. At this market no fewer than 4 messengers, 3 of whom are notary-publics, attend regularly, and have made themselves rich on the ruins of the poor; one of them has bought 2 estates.



*Stipend, School, Poor.*—Logie-Coldstone is a vice-patronage; the Crown and Invercauld present alternately. The annual stipend modified in 1793 is L. 45 : 2 : 1, and 111 bolls of victual, 32 of which are bear, and 2 glebes. The church was rebuilt in 1780, the manse and kitchen in 1783; the office-houses are in a ruinous state.—There is only one school. The salary is 100 merks; the number of scholars in winter is from 50 to 80, owing to the school being contiguous to a great part of the parish of Tullich, which lies within Cromar, and that of Migvie, where there is no school but that of Coldstone adjacent to either. The school is kept in the old manse where the schoolmaster lives; in summer the number of scholars seldom exceeds 10 or 12.—The number of poor on the parish-roll is usually from 28 to 35. The only fund for their support, which amounted to L. 35 Sterling, was in the hands of a gentleman, who failed in circumstances and is since dead. All that was recovered of the money was L. 6; so that the poor have nothing now but that and the weekly collections to depend upon. Invercauld has been in the regular practice of sending money to divide among them annually since the 1783; the sum is usually L. 11 Sterling.

#### NOTE.

Letter from Mr Farquharson to Sir John Sinclair.

“ There is a very uncommon and particular circumstance in my case, which I shall mention to you, (knowing you to be a friend to mankind). I have for a long time been distressed with a disorder in my stomach; about 5 years ago, I was advised to take (when much pained) 25 drops of laudanum once a day, and to increase the quantity gradually. My distress was such, that it made me attend regularly to the prescription, as it gave me a momentary relief, so that at the end of 4 years I came on to 12 and often 14 tea-spoonfuls the day; the effects of which, along with my complaint, reduced me to mere skin and bone, and made me as yellow as an orange. I consulted Dr Cullen when I began to take the laudanum, who did not disapprove of it; but on finding it breaking in fast on my constitution, (which was originally good), I applied to Dr Monro

who



who gave me for answer, " that laudanum was a certain, though slow poison." This determined me, though in a very reduced state, to diminish the quantity 10 tea-spoonfuls a-day. The sudden transition bore very hard upon me, to such a degree, that it was the belief of every one who saw me, that I could not live many days. Dr Thomas Morison in London, (who was my early acquaintance), came to this country in August last, and advised me (if possible) to abandon the laudanum, but to do it gradually; he sent me some doses of the shavings of steel to take three times a-day, which I continued to do with such success, that I can now with pleasure say that I have not tasted laudanum for 4 months past, and am become stout and fat."

NUMBER



## NUMBER XXXV.

## PARISH OF GRAITNEY,

(COUNTY AND SYNOD OF DUMFRIES, PRESBYTERY OF ANNAN.)

*By the Rev. Mr JOHN MORGAN.*

*Name, Extent, Surface.*

**N**O authentic information can be obtained respecting the etymology of the name of this parish. The spelling varies much, which increases the difficulty. The most probable conjecture is, that it was originally called *Great-know*, from a small hill lying at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from the church. The form of it is that of an oblong square, extending along the coast of the Solway Frith, nearly 6 miles in length, and about 3 in breadth at an average. It is a level district, diversified with a few rising grounds of small extent. The highest eminence is Graitney-hill, from which the parish is supposed to derive its name, lying at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from the church. It rises about 250 feet above wa-

ter



ter mark, and commands a pleasant and extensive prospect of the coast of Cumberland, Solway Frith, Annandale, Liddiesdale, and of part of Northumberland.

*Springs, Rivers, Solway Frith, &c.*—There are some mineral springs; but as very little attention hath hitherto been paid to them, their virtues are scarcely known, and they are rendered less valuable by being often washed over by the tides. The Eden, Esk, and Sark, uniting form the head of Solway Frith, and the southern boundary of this parish. The Frith here may be 4 or 5 miles broad, and is navigable to Sarkfoot for vessels of 120 tons burden. There are several harbours or landing places in the parish, such as Sarkfoot, Hiedkirkpoint, Brewhouses, &c. but on any part of the coast, which is a flat and sandy shore, vessels may lie in safety at all times. The Sark, and the Kirtle another small river, are the only streams in the parish. The tides flow regularly from W. to E. with great rapidity, for the space of 3 hours, and are nearly full at the moon's southing. The spring-tides rise about 20 feet above low water mark, and there are evident appearances of their having risen much higher at some former period. In the little rivers Sark and Kirtle are trout, eels, herlings, pike, &c. but not in such quantities as to be objects of much attention to the inhabitants. The fishing, however, in the Solway Frith is of more importance. It produces salmon in pretty large quantities, some sturgeon, cod, flounders, and rarely porpoises. But as the different methods employed in taking the several kinds of fish, the markets to which they are sent, and the prices at which they are sold, are fully and accurately detailed in the return from the adjoining parish of Dornoch, it is unnecessary to repeat them here.

*Climate,*



*Climate, Soil, &c.*—The climate is temperate and the air healthful. No local distempers are prevalent. There are several instances indeed of rheumatic and nervous disorders, particularly among the lowest class of the inhabitants, owing to their living in cold and damp houses, to their enjoying but a scanty share of the comforts of life, and in some cases perhaps to the indiscreet use of tea and spiritous liquors. There have been some instances of longevity. It appears from a grave-stone in the church-yard here, that of 2 brothers, who died a century ago, the one was 111, and the other 110. In the year 1791, a woman died at the age of 103, but her name could not be found in the parish-record. There is now living one woman upwards of an 100, two between 90 and 100, and several persons between 80 and 90, which are striking proofs of the salubrity of this part of the country.—The soil is various. Except some tracts of moss and boggy grounds, which are incapable of improvement, it is in general dry and sandy, mixed with stones. In some parts, and particularly on the sea-side, it is a fine rich loam; in others, of a wet and clayish nature. In almost every part, however, the soil is fertile, and, when properly cultivated, yields abundant returns\*.

*Population.*—According to the returns made to Dr Webster, the number of souls was then 1051. It is believed that the population of this parish has been gradually increasing for many years. There are now 1810 persons, of whom are,

Under 10 years of age, 490      Between 10 and 20, 399

Between

\* Wheat is sown in October and November; oats from the middle of March to the end of April; barley in the latter end of April and in May; turnip from the middle of June to the middle of July. Reaping begins about the middle of August, and continues till the latter end of October. The seasons, however, are sometimes a little earlier, sometimes later.



|                        |      |                          |    |
|------------------------|------|--------------------------|----|
| Between 20 and 50,     | 620  | Shoemakers,              | 8  |
| Between 50 and 70,     | 225  | Tailors,                 | 9  |
| Between 70 and 100,    | 75   | Butchers,                | 2  |
| Above 100,             | 1    | Millers,                 | 2  |
|                        |      | Bakers,                  | 3  |
| Of these, there are,   |      | Gardeners,               | 3  |
| Males,                 | 805  | Midwife,                 | 1  |
| Females,               | 1005 | Tallow-chandler,         | 1  |
| Married of both sexes, | 430  | Travelling pedlar,       | 1  |
| Bachelors above 50,    | 37   | Men who gain a liveli-   |    |
| Unmarried women a-     |      | hood partly by fishing,  |    |
| bove 45,               | 88   | and partly by some       |    |
| Widowers,              | 23   | other employment,        | 75 |
| Widows,                | 53   | Land-surveyor,           | 1  |
| Families,              | 323  | Apprentices,             | 31 |
|                        |      | Chaise-drivers,          | 2  |
| Surgeons,              | 2    | Male labouring servants, | 50 |
| Schoolmasters,         | 4    | Female ditto,            | 52 |
| Shopkeepers,           | 15   | Female domestic ser-     |    |
| Principal innkeeper,   | 1    | vants,                   | 12 |
| Inferior innkeepers,   | 3    | Farmers above L. 50 a-   |    |
| Tippling houses,       | 15   | year,                    | 7  |
| Blacksmiths,           | 7    | Do. between L. 50 and    |    |
| Joiners,               | 9    | L. 15 a-year,            | 46 |
| Weavers,               | 52   | Do. under L. 15 a-year,  | 1  |

All the rest of the inhabitants are cottagers employed by the farmers. They are all of the Established Church, except 1 Cameronian, 2 or 3 Burgher Seceders, and a few Episcopalians. The number of births within the parish, taken at an average of 10 years, amounts to 54. The average number of marriages for the last five years does not exceed 7; but it is to be observed, that there are many irregular marriages in the parish. As no register of burials has hither-



to been kept, the average of deaths annually cannot be ascertained.

*Agriculture, &c.*—The annual produce of the parish may be nearly as follows :

| Crops.        | Number of acres under each. | Produce an acre, Win. Buft. | Price the Buft. | Price the acre. | Total Produce, Win. Buft. | Total value. |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Wheat,        | 40                          | 30                          | 6 s.            | 9 0 0           | 1200                      | 360 0 0      |
| Barley,       | 550                         | 36                          | 3 s.            | 5 8 0           | 19800                     | 2970 0 0     |
| Oats,         | 2000                        | 40                          | 2 s.            | 4 10 0          | 80000                     | 8000 0 0     |
| Peafe,        | 20                          | 15                          | 3 s.            | 2 5 0           | 300                       | 45 0 0       |
| Beans,        | 20                          | 15                          | 4 s.            | 3 0 0           | 300                       | 60 0 0       |
| Potatoes,     | 200                         | 180                         | 1 s.            | 9 0 0           | 36000                     | 1800 0 0     |
| Turnip,       | 60                          |                             |                 | 3 0 0           |                           | 180 0 0      |
| Flax,         | 15                          |                             |                 | 8 0 0           |                           | 90 0 0       |
| Sown          |                             |                             |                 |                 |                           |              |
| grafs,        | 300                         |                             |                 | 5 0 0           |                           | 1500 0 0     |
| Meadow,       | 300                         |                             |                 | 1 10 0          |                           | 450 0 0      |
| Pasture,      | 3500                        |                             |                 | 0 10 6          |                           | 1837 10 0    |
| Coarfe ditto, | 2500                        |                             |                 | 0 2 6           |                           | 312 10 0     |
| Mofs,         | 735                         |                             |                 | 0 1 0           |                           | 36 15 0      |
| House         |                             |                             |                 |                 |                           |              |
| rents,        |                             |                             |                 |                 |                           | 100 0 0      |
| Fishings,     |                             |                             |                 |                 |                           | 500 0 0      |

10240 acres. Total val. ann. prod. L. 18241 0 15

The parish not only supplies the inhabitants with provisions, but exports considerable quantities to the English markets, and sometimes to Clyde. The annual exports of the parish may be nearly as follows :



|                                            |   |         |    |   |
|--------------------------------------------|---|---------|----|---|
| 1000 Bushels of wheat, at 6 s.             | - | L. 300  | 0  | 0 |
| 10000 Bushels of barley, at 3 s.           | - | 1500    | 0  | 0 |
| 25000 Bushels of oats, at 2 s.             | - | 2500    | 0  | 0 |
| 150 Bushels of pease, at 3 s.              | - | 22      | 10 | 0 |
| 150 Bushels of beans, at 4 s.              | - | 30      | 0  | 0 |
| 100 Tons of potatoes, at 20 s.             | - | 100     | 0  | 0 |
| 200 Firkins of butter, at 28 s.            | - | 280     | 0  | 0 |
| 50 Cwt of cheese, at 28 s.                 | - | 70      | 0  | 0 |
| 350 Swine fatted, and sold at L. 3,        | - | 1050    | 0  | 0 |
| 350 Black cattle, of 2 years old, at L. 2, | - | 700     | 0  | 0 |
| 190 Calves, fatted and sold at 15 s.       | - | 137     | 10 | 0 |
| 80 Cows, sold at L. 6,                     | - | 480     | 0  | 0 |
| 200 Cart load of hay, at 20s.              | - | 200     | 0  | 0 |
| Fish uncertain, but may be estimated at    |   | 450     | 0  | 0 |
| <hr/>                                      |   |         |    |   |
| Total value of annual exports,             | - | L. 7820 | 0  | 0 |

The Stock of the Parish may be as follows:

|                                  |   |         |    |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---------|----|---|
| 400 Cows at L. 6.                | - | L. 2400 | 0  | 0 |
| 500 Young cattle, at L. 2, 10 s. | - | 1250    | 0  | 0 |
| 286 Horses, at L. 10,            | - | 2860    | 0  | 0 |
| 528 Swine, at L. 1, 10 s.        | - | 792     | 0  | 0 |
| 40 Sheep, at L. 1,               | - | 40      | 0  | 0 |
| 120 Ploughs, at L. 2,            | - | 240     | 0  | 0 |
| 209 Carts, at L. 5,              | - | 1045    | 0  | 0 |
| 15 Tumbrils, at L. 2, 10 s.      | - | 37      | 10 | 0 |
| Other implements of husbandry,   | - | 600     | 0  | 0 |
| 2 Four wheeled chaises,          | - | 80      | 0  | 0 |
| <hr/>                            |   |         |    |   |
| Total value of Stock,            | - | L. 9344 | 10 | 0 |

Imports.



## Imports.

|                                                       |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| At Sarkfoot are imported annually, 3000 tons of coals |              |
| from Cumberland, at 6 s.                              | L. 900 0 0   |
| 2000 Load of timber from Riga and Memel,              |              |
| at L. 3, 15 s.                                        | 7500 0 0     |
| 1000 Barrels of tar, chiefly from America,            |              |
| at 15 s.                                              | 750 0 0      |
| 120 Tons of salt from Pittenweem, at L. 6             |              |
| the ton,                                              | 720 0 0      |
| 200 Tons of slate from Lancashire and                 |              |
| Wales, at L. 1, 12 s. the ton,                        | 320 0 0      |
| Total annual value of imports,                        | L. 10190 0 0 |

The annual produce of this parish has been greatly increased of late years, by the improvements which have been made, as the several proprietors have exerted themselves with a laudable emulation in the melioration of their respective estates. The arable lands are all inclosed at the expense of the landlord, and the stone-fences and hedges, which are in a thriving condition, are upheld by the tenants. Several of the farms are in a very high state of cultivation, and the rest are daily improving. It is believed, that the rental of the parish has been tripled in the course of the last 25 years. The manure used here is dung and lime, brought from the Donkin's lime-works, in the parish of Middlebie, or from Haymuir, in the parish of Kirkpatrick, and sometimes from the hollows, in the parish of Cannobie. The price the bushel at Donkin's is 11 d. and at the other places 7 d. or 8 d. This difference in the price, is owing to the difference of the prices of the coals used in burning the limestone. The farmers here use the

English



English or Rotheram plough only, with the curved mold-board. It is drawn by two horses, without a driver, and commonly ploughs about an acre a-day. The rotation of cropping, in general, is, first year, wheat or oats; second year, oats; third year, turnip or potatoes; fourth year, barley, sown out with clover and rye-grass. The land, sown out in this manner, is usually mown for one year, then pastured two years, and afterwards ploughed, and undergoes the same rotation of crops. The parish is the property of 4 heritors, the Earl of Hopetoun, Earl of Mansfield, Sir William Maxwell of Springkell, Bart. and Mr Graham of Mosknow; none of whom reside. No part of the parish is common. Every proprietor knows the precise limits of his estate. The farms in this district are in general of small extent. There is, however, one farm let at L. 300, and another at L. 186. All the rest are considerably smaller. The land here lets from 5 s. to 20 s. the acre \*.

*Stipend,*

\* *Prices, Wages, Expenses, Earnings, &c.*—The average price of wheat is 5 s. 6 d. of barley, 2 s. 8 d. and of oats 2 s. the Winchester bushel. Meal is from 1 s. 6 d. to 2 s. the stone of 17½ lb. The present average price of beef and veal, is 3¼ d. the lb; of mutton and lamb, 3½ d. and of pork 4 d. the lb. of 16 ounces. A turkey is sold at 3 s. a goose at 2 s. 6 d. a hen at 8 d. a duck at 8 d. cheese at 3 d. and butter at 6 d. the lb. of 16 ounces. The prices of provisions of all kinds are greatly increased of late years. The farmers here live less on butter and cheese, than they seem to have done formerly. They think that they find an advantage in selling these articles, and in buying butcher-meat. There is an exceedingly good flesh-market in the village of Graitney Green, where upwards of L. 700 worth of butcher-meat of all kinds, and of the best qualities, is killed and sold annually, the greatest part of which is consumed in this parish and neighbourhood. In consequence of our vicinity to England, as in other bordering parishes, wages and the price of labour are generally high, as many of the young people of both sexes go into Cumberland, where a male servant can have from L. 8 to L. 12 and upwards, and a female



*Stipend, School, Poor.*—The stipend is L. 760 Scots, including L. 60 Scots for communion-elements, and 5 chalders of victual, two thirds of which are payable in meal, and the other third in bear, amounting, *communibus annis*, to about L. 120 Sterling. The glebe is but small, and lies at the distance of more than two miles from the church, which renders it less valuable to the minister. In the 1789 and 1790, the church and offices were all new built, and the manse repaired at a considerable expense. Lord Mansfield is patron.—There is in the parish one schoolmaster only, who has a salary of 100 merks Scots. This, and the school-wages, including an house and garden, may amount to about L. 20 Sterling annually. The school-house, and the house in which the schoolmaster resides, were both built not many years ago, and are at present in excellent repair.

male servant from L. 4 to L. 6 yearly, and sometimes for the spring and harvest quarters, a stout young man will get from L. 3, 10 s. to L. 4, 10 s. especially in the autumn. It is believed that the wages of labouring servants are nearly the same in this district. From Candlemas to Martinmas the wages of a day-labourer are 1 s. 2 d. without victuals, and 8 d. with them, and in the winter quarter, they are 1 s. without victuals, and 6 d. with them. Men and women have only 8 d. a-day for reaping, when their provisions are furnished them, and 1 s. 2 d. when they furnish their own provisions. Tradesmen, such as masons and joiners, have 1 s. 8 d. a-day without, and 1 s. 2 d. with meat, bricklayers and slaters, 2 s. 6 d. tailors 8 d. with, and 1 s. 2 d. without their victuals. But all these generally work by the piece. With these wages, the industrious tradesman and labourer support their families in a pretty decent and comfortable manner, if sickness, bad weather, &c. prevent them not from following their respective employments.

A labourer's annual earnings may be as follows :

|                                                  |            |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------|
| 7 s. a-week for the summer and harvest quarters, | L. 9 2 0   |
| 6 s. a-week for the winter and spring quarters,  | — 7 16 0   |
|                                                  | <hr/>      |
| Total annual earnings,                           | L. 16 18 0 |



repair. There are generally two, and sometimes three other persons, who teach in different parts of the parish. They are paid by the scholars, and may make about L. 14 or L. 15 each yearly.—The number of persons on the poors roll, taken at an average of the last 5 years, is 24. There are no funds in the parish for their support, but the weekly collections, amounting to about L. 18 yearly\*.

### Antiquities.

The annual expenses of a labourer's family, consisting of himself, a wife, and four small children, may be as follows:

|                                                                                                 |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| House rent, including a small garden and potato-ground,                                         | L. 1 0 0    |
| 1½ stones of oat-meal a-week, at 1 s. 8 d. the stone,                                           | — 6 10 0    |
| Milk and butter a-week, 1 s.                                                                    | — — 2 12 0  |
| Tea and sugar, a-year,                                                                          | — — 0 15 0  |
| Soap, candles, and salt, &c.                                                                    | — — 0 15 0  |
| Tear and wear of their Sunday's clothes,                                                        | — — 1 0 0   |
| A working jacket, vest, breeches, shirts, stockings, clogs, handkerchief, and hat, for the man, | — — 1 10 0  |
| A bed gown, petticoats, shift, stockings, clogs, handkerchief, and cap, for his wife,           | — — — 1 0 0 |
| A new vest, breeches, &c. for each of the four children, at 10 s. each suit,                    | — — — 2 0 0 |
| School-wages for two of the children,                                                           | — — 0 12 0  |
| Coal or peats for fuel,                                                                         | — — 1 0 0   |
| Total annual expenses,                                                                          | L. 18 14 0  |

The annual expenses exceed the man's annual earnings L. 1, 16 s.; but the deficiency may be made up by the wife's industry, as she generally works in hay time and harvest, by which she may earn about L. 1, at an average, and by spinning the remainder of the year, may earn about 1 s. a-week, besides doing the business of her family. When potatoes are a good crop, there will be a saving in the article of oat-meal, which is generally expended in purchasing better clothes, or a little butcher-meat.

\* *Friendly Society of Kirkpatrick-Fleming and Graitney.* The object of this society is to provide a fund for the support of the labouring part of the community here, when they are rendered incapable of earning a livelihood for themselves by sickness or old age. It was instituted about six years



*Antiquities.*—The remains of a Druidical temple are still to be seen on the farm of Graitney Mains. It is of an oval form, and incloses about half an acre of ground. It is formed of large rough whin or moorstones, which must have been brought from a considerable distance, there being no stones of this kind within 10 or 12 miles of this place. One of the largest of these stones, which is commonly called Lochmaben stone, measures 118 cubical feet, the total weight of which, supposing each cubical foot to weigh 12 stone, must be 20 tons and upwards. The rest are considerably smaller. The site of this temple is said to be famous for having been the place where alliances were anciently formed between the two nations. The remains of two or three square towers are still to be seen in different parts of the parish. They seem to have been places of defence against the incursions of the English borderers. There are in the possession of James Graham, formerly of this parish, but now in the parish of Dornoch, 29 small silver coins, which were found inclosed in a small wooden box, in a moss near the Hirst; 25 of them are about the size of sixpences, and the remaining four somewhat smaller. A few of them seem to have been struck at Canterbury, but the greatest part of them at London, apparently in the reign of one of the King Edward's, but there is no legible date on any of them.

*Natural*

years ago, and is composed chiefly of labourers and mechanics. Several of the principal farmers in both parishes also have become members of this society, merely with a view to encourage it, from a conviction, that it is an excellent institution, and, if properly conducted, may be productive of much advantage to a very deserving description of men. Each member contributes a small sum quarterly, which is gradually accumulating into a fund; from which every member in distress draws a stated allowance weekly, according to the regulations of the society. Several of the members have already derived much advantage from this institution.



*Natural Curiosity.*—In autumn 1792, the tacksmen of a free stone quarry, belonging to the then Viscount of Stormont, and lying near the foot of the water of Kute, in working the same, discovered a mass of tar, incruited on all sides with the rock. The hollow in which it was found, would have held about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons Scotch measure, and the quantity of tar found was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  English pints. When the tar was tried, it burned in the fire like common tar, extracted from fir, but had a sulphureous smell. It was soft when found, and became fluid in the fire. The rock in which it was found is a white freestone, of a good quality. The workmen are of opinion, that it has proceeded from a spring on the north-west side of the quarry. This spring leaves a black slimy substance like tar; and this substance, as they think, oozing through the foot of the rock, has produced the mass described above.

*Village of Springfield.*—In the year 1791, a new village was begun on the farm of Springfield, belonging to Sir William Maxwell, where upwards of 40 houses have been already built, or are now building. This village is situated on a dry healthy soil, upon an eminence above the Sark, the river which is here the boundary of the united kingdoms. The plan of the village is perfectly regular. The streets are 50 feet wide, and the houses are all built of freestone or bricks, and covered with blue slate. A great part of the land adjacent to the village, and belonging to the proprietor, has been inclosed, and the fences planted with quicks and hedge-rows of trees. Each settler is accommodated with an inclosure of 6 or 4 acres at a moderate rent, and upon a lease for 19 years. The building leases are for 99 years. Several weavers are now settling in this village, and as the proprietor is exerting himself for the establishment of manufactures of different kinds, there  
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seems to be little doubt of this village becoming a very considerable place in a short time, from the many advantages which it possesses with respect to its situation. Both coal and peat are to be had here at no great distance, and at a moderate expense. There is a small river contiguous to the village, and the sea-port at Sarkfoot is not above a mile distant from it. The great road from England by Moffat to Edinburgh and Glasgow, and the great road by Dumfries to Port-Patrick, and by Dumfries, Sanquhar, Muirkirk, &c. to Glasgow, all pass through this village.

*Roads.*—There are two turnpike roads which pass through this parish. The road from England by Moffat to Edinburgh and to Glasgow, by Hamilton, and the road from England by Drumfries to Port-Patrick, and to Glasgow by Sanquhar, Muirkirk, &c. and which roads separate at Headless-Cross, about 200 yards to the westward of the new village of Springfield\*.

*Graitney-Hall.*—This house, in which an heritor formerly resided, is now fitted up in a very elegant and commodious manner as an inn by the Earl of Hopeton, the proprietor, where post-chaises are kept, and every accommodation

\* There were no turnpike roads in this part of the country till the year 1777, when an act of Parliament was obtained for repairing certain roads in the county of Dumfries, by the aid of tolls, and for commuting the statute-labour; the trustees under that act being empowered to assess the proprietors and occupiers of land, in a sum not exceeding 12 s. on each 100 merks of valuation, for the purposes of repairing, and keeping in repair, the different roads within the county. The benefit which has been derived from this act of Parliament has been universally felt and acknowledged; and it is from that period, and from this circumstance, that every real and extensive improvement in this part of the country, and in the county of Dumfries, is to be dated, and has arisen.



dation may be had that is to be found in the best inns in England.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are 2 bridges, the one of one arch over the Sark, and the other of two arches on the Port-Patrick road over the Kirtle, lately rebuilt in a very substantial manner. There is an exceedingly good wheat, barley and oat mill, well supplied with water, where the greatest part of the grain in the parish is grinded. We have very little natural wood. There is a plantation of full grown trees at Graitney-Hall, and there are several belts and clumps of young plantations in different parts of the parish, which in time will be a very great ornament to this part of the country. The common fuel used here is peats. The expenses of cutting, drying and leading them may be estimated at about 1 s. the cart-load. Coals are brought from Archerbeck in the parish of Canobie. They cost 1 s. 6 d. the cart-load at the pit. They are likewise brought by water-carriage from Cumberland. By landing them on the English side, the payment of the duty is evaded, and they cost 6 s. the ton, or 3 s. the cart-load. These are perhaps cheaper than the Archerbeck coal, which are about 10 miles distant from this place.

#### NOTE.

*Clandestine Marriages.*—This parish has been long famous in the annals of matrimonial adventure, for the marriages of fugitive lovers from England, which have been celebrated here. People living at a distance erroneously suppose, that the regular and established clergyman of this parish is the celebrator of those marriages: Whereas the persons who follow this illicit practice, are mere impostors, priests of their own erection, who have no right whatever, either to marry, or to exercise any part of the clerical function. There are, at present, more than one of this description in this place. But the greatest part of the trade is monopolised by a man who was originally a tobacconist, and not a blacksmith, as is generally believed. He is a fellow without literature, without principles, without morals, and without manners. His life is a continued scene



scene of drunkenness. His irregular conduct has rendered him an object of detestation to all the sober and virtuous part of the neighbourhood. Such is the man (and the description is not exaggerated) who has had the honour to join, in the sacred bonds of wedlock, many people of great rank and fortune from all parts of England. It is 40 years and upwards since marriages of this kind began to be celebrated here. At the lowest computation about 60 are supposed to be solemnized annually in this place. Taken at an average through the year, they may be estimated at 15 guineas each; consequently this traffic brings in about L. 945 a-year. The form of ceremony, when any ceremony is used, is that of the Church of England. On some occasions, particularly when the parson is intoxicated, which is often the case, a certificate only is given. The certificate is signed by the parson himself, and two witnesses under fictitious signatures. The following is a

Copy of one of these Certificates, in the original Spelling:

" This is to fartfay all persons that my be confernid, that A. B. from the parish of C. and in county of D. and E. F. from the parish of G. and in the county of H. and both comes before me and declayred themselves both to be single persons, and now mayried by the forme of the Kirk of Scotland, and agreible to the Church of England, and givine ondre my hand, this 18th day of March, 1793."

Is it not a disgrace to the police of a civilized country, to permit such irregularities to be practised with impunity? And is it not a reflection on the good sense and discernment of the Nobility and Gentry of England, (for some of the English Nobility have been married here), to suffer themselves to be imposed upon, and their pockets to be picked, by such miscreants?



NUMBER XXXVI.

PARISH OF DUNLOP,

(COUNTY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR,  
PRESBYTERY OF IRVINE).

*By the Rev. Mr THOMAS BRISBANE.*

*Name, Extent, Rivulets, &c.*

**N**OTHING is seemingly more arbitrary and capricious than the names of places, and nothing is for that reason perhaps less attended to and understood; owing, as we suppose, their origin to mere fancy or arbitrary will, we think them unworthy of a serious investigation; and that every attempt to account for them, is but a confirmation of what we suppose. On the other extreme, is the opinion of those who allow, indeed, that they may be traced, and their meaning ascertained, but that in order to this, ancient times must be consulted, and ancient tales be believed. Whatever, therefore, comes stamped with this authority, and has any relation, though but in sound to the name, is admitted as a matter of importance, and sufficient to settle every inquiry of this kind. To such persons the  
marvellous



marvellous and improbable are so far from being objections, that they rather appear to be natural for the times that gave them birth, and necessary to give dignity and permanency to what they were intended to express. It is for this reason, that the names of places have been explained in the most fanciful manner, and circumstances adduced in the explication of them, that exceed every degree of probability, and are evidently false. The name before us, as accounted for by some, is one of these. According to them, there was among the Danes who infested this country, a man of extraordinary strength and stature, and that upon a time, to show I suppose his extraordinary folly, he made a remarkable leap from a hill in the neighbourhood of the place where the church now stands, and that to this incident the hill itself and the parish are indebted for their name. But without examining into the merits of this story, or regretting that it had not been more circumstantially told, we need only observe, that the name is with much more probability derived from an old and respectable family in the parish, or from its hilly appearance *Dun-lop* or *Dun-luib*, signifying, in Gaelic, “a winding or circuitous hill;” and were we to credit the tradition, that the house of Dunlop stood originally on the top of Dunlop-hill, we might be led from this circumstance, and the appearance of the ground about it, to suppose, that it might be called, in the language of the times, the house on, or the house of the winding hill, and that the family itself might afterward assume that name, and give it to the parish. The parish is of an oblong figure, being about 7 English miles long, and 2<sup>1</sup> broad. It is bounded by the parishes of Neillston, Stewartoun, and Beith. From the first of these it is separated in front by a small burn or brook on the E. from the second in the same manner on the S. and from the last by Lugton on the N. This has its source in the parish of Neillston,



Neillston, is well stored with fish, especially trout, and is at present only worthy of notice for the extent of country through which it passes, and the winding course which it takes in its progress to Garnoch, which it turns in the neighbourhood of Kilwinning. There are no rivers, and but 2 burns in the parish, one of which is considerable enough to afford a sufficient supply of water during the winter, and in wet seasons, to the mills which are erected on it, and is said to contain the charhe or chare, a species of trout of the finest quality.

*Roads.*—By means of the roads which intersect it in different places, there is an easy access to every part of the parish, and likewise to the country and town around it. In consequence of this, the people have frequent and friendly intercourse with one another, know the value of every thing they have to sell, and can bring it to the best market. To the same cause, perhaps, may be ascribed that polish and urbanity which they have in common with their neighbours, and that fondness for dress which is so observable on public occasions.

*Surface, Soil, and Produce.*—The parish of Dunlop may be said to stand upon high ground, and to consist of a great variety of hills. None of these, however, are remarkable for their height, but many of them for the beautiful and extensive prospects which they give, and all of them for the rich grass which they produce, arising from an elevated base, which occupies great part of the parish. The ground, though hilly, is of easy access, and well adapted to the purposes of pasture and agriculture. For the same reason, it abounds in springs of excellent water; and being moreover within a few miles of the sea, it is blessed with a pure and healthful air. In consequence of this, the people are sub-  
ject



ject to few diseases, and generally live to a good old age. In the western parts of the parish, the soil is either light or of a thin clay, and towards the E. the prevailing soil is deep and heavy, with a cold wet bottom. And this, it is probable, has given rise to a practice unknown in other parts of the country, and which strangers are apt to consider as foolish and unaccountable. The custom is, to plough with 4 horses and 3 men; 2 of the men are employed in the usual way; but the third, with a long pole fixed to the beam of the plough, directs the beam, and assists the ploughman. By this mode, of an ancient date among them, they imagine they do more and better work in the same time, than could be done by any other method. But whether the advantages of this, supposing them to be real, will overbalance the expense of an additional horse and servant, is certainly a question of some importance, especially to those who have nothing but custom to justify their continuance of it. In a place like this, where the farms are small, and where the ploughing is carried on by two neighbours jointly, this expense is indeed not so readily perceived; yet still it must be for their interest to perceive it, and for their credit, as proper farmers, to retrench it. From what has been said concerning the difference of soil, it is easy to see that there will be a difference also in what it produces. The crops accordingly, which are usually oats, are better and more productive in the first and second, than they are in the third division of soil; those of the former yielding from 17 to 19, and those of the latter but from 12 to 15 pecks of meal the boll. The average rate, however, of meal the boll, for the whole parish, will not exceed 14 pecks, though the boll here contains a bushel more than it does in most other counties in Scotland. And what may appear a little strange for a parish not of great extent



extent, the harvest is concluded some seasons five \* sooner in the western than it is in the eastern extremity of it. But the principal produce, or manufacture, as it may be called, of the parish, is cheese. For this it has been long known and distinguished, inasmuch that all the cheese made in the country about it, when carried to Paisley, Glasgow, or farther, goes by the name of Dunlop cheese, and finds a better market on that account. Nor is this preference to be ascribed altogether to prejudice; for it is certainly as good as ever it was, and equal, if not superior, to what is made anywhere else. The practice of making sweet-milk cheese, as it is called, was first introduced into this parish by one Barbara Gilmour, whose grandson is still living, and is proprietor of the same farm. Having gone to Ireland, to avoid the hardships which people were then exposed to on account of religion, she is said to have brought it with her when she returned about the time of the Revolution. Since that period, cheese has been the great and almost the only business of Dunlop. Sensible that their situation was more favourable for this than for any other purpose, the people bestowed upon it the greatest care, and turned it to the best advantage.—They have inclosed their ground, have but a third or fourth of it in tillage, and the rest in grass, which is always a plentiful crop, and of the finest quality. They are very attentive both to the colour and shape of their cows, which are rather small than otherwise, and commonly of their own raising. And as these feed in inclosures, free from the restraints of herding, and are not brought into houses during the night, from the beginning of May to the end of harvest, the quantity of milk which they give is very great. I am sorry that under this article I cannot give the reader all the information I could wish, either as

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to

\* Perhaps the word omitted by the author is "weeks."



to the number of cows that is kept, or the quantity of cheese that is made in the parish. The people were alarmed when questioned about these things, and alleging that this was valuing their farms, they refused to give me any satisfaction on this head; only from what I could collect, so far as I went with this view, I should suppose that there may be about 758 cows kept, and about 10,612 stones of cheese made in it annually, which is equal to L. 3714, 4 s. at 7 s. a-stone, the market-price at present. And to this they are well entitled, both on account of the quantity and quality of their cheese. For as this is the produce of the richest pasture, and the best cows, so nothing can exceed their integrity and cleanliness in manufacturing it. Like that made in some of the counties of England, it appears to great disadvantage when new, but improves by age and proper keeping. The valued rent of the parish is L. 4115, 17 s. 6 d. Scots. The real rent upwards of L. 3000 Sterling\*.

*Population.*

\* It might be expected, in a country like this, which is all inclosed, that there would be a good deal of plantation, or at least that hedge-rows would be frequent and in a thriving condition. The truth is, though trees be necessary both in point of utility and ornament, and though nature points with an high hand as it were to many places where these should be; yet they are only to be found in small numbers, where an house stands, or where one has stood. This general observation, however, admits of two exceptions. Mr Dunlop of Dunlop has planted some thousands of trees of different kinds within these few years; and from his good taste and great attention, there is every reason to expect that he will proceed on a larger scale. The late Mr Muir of Caldwell was a man of the finest taste, and in nothing perhaps did his superiority in that more appear, than in the manner in which he has laid off his ground, and placed his different plantations. These, skirting and intersecting his several farms, add both to their beauty and value; and afford a pleasant proof, how much the face of a country, naturally bleak and unpropitious, may be changed and improved. But an example of this kind was not likely to be followed by those whose properties are but small, and whose study is economy, residing the greater part of them on their own farms, and depending in a great measure on what they produce,  
they



*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 796. At the conclusion of the year 1791, the population of the parish, and the division of its inhabitants, were according to the following table :

|                                      |                 |   |        |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--------|
| Population 50 years ago,             | -               | - | 600    |
| ————— in the year 1791,              | -               | - | 779    |
| Average of marriages,                | } for 12 years, | { | 8      |
| ————-- births,                       |                 |   | 16     |
| ————-- deaths,                       |                 |   | 11     |
| Inhabitants in the village,          | -               | - | 112    |
| ————— country,                       | -               | - | 667    |
| Number of males,                     | -               | - | 389    |
| ————— females,                       | -               | - | 390    |
| ————— persons under 10 years of age, |                 |   | 166    |
| ————— between 10 and 20,             |                 |   | 171    |
| ————— 20 and 50,                     |                 |   | 318    |
| ————— 50 and 70,                     |                 |   | 99     |
| ————— 70 and 100                     |                 |   | 25     |
|                                      |                 |   | Number |

they consider every spot they possess as of immediate use, and useful only as it bears a crop, or feeds a cow. Plans, therefore, of distant prospect, and of future advantage, but which must be attended with present expense, are seldom thought of, and never adopted. Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at, if the parish is, with respect to trees, what it was in the days of their fathers, very naked and bare; indeed, after what has been said, the reader will be surprised when he is told, that in no parish of the same limits, and inhabited by so plain and frugal a people, will he find a greater number of good substantial houses. Many of these are slated, and finished in a style that shows what might be done in other things, was there the same inducement. Those above us in rank or riches, may call forth our esteem or admiration; but those in equal station with ourselves call forth our emulation, and these active principles by which we are urged from one thing to another, and always farther than we would otherwise go, merely that we may preserve our equality, and our wonted distinction from those beneath us; and when we attribute one part of their improvement to this, it is natural to hope, that some time or other the same principle will operate as powerfully towards their improvement in other respects; and that the nakedness of the land will no longer stare every stranger in the face.



|                               |   |        |     |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|-----|
| Number of families,           | - | -      | 163 |
| — married persons,            | - | -      | 244 |
| — Seceders,                   | - | -      | 16  |
| — proprietors residing,       | - | -      | 41  |
| — non-residing,               | - | -      | 17  |
| — tenants,                    | - | -      | 63  |
| — male-servants,              | - | -      | 32  |
| — female-servants,            | - | -      | 61  |
| — masons,                     | - | -      | 6   |
| — weavers,                    | - | -      | 12  |
| — carpenters or wrights,      | - | -      | 6   |
| — smiths,                     | - | -      | 3   |
| — shoemakers,                 | - | -      | 3   |
| — tailors,                    | - | -      | 4   |
| — labourers,                  | - | -      | 23  |
| — innkeepers,                 | - | -      | 3   |
| — poor,                       | - | -      | 8   |
| Capital of their stock, about | - | L. 325 |     |
| Annual income, about          | - | -      | 37  |
| Number of churches,           | - | -      | 1   |
| — clergyman,                  | - | -      | 1   |
| — schools,                    | - | -      | 1   |
| — schoolmaster,               | - | -      | 1*  |

*Language,*

\* With regard to the population of the parish 50 years ago, it is a little uncertain, whether the number therein stated comprehended every individual, or these only who were of age to be examined. If the latter only, the number of the people would be much the same then with what it is at present; but it is more probable that the first was the case, as the division of property has been frequent, and the number of proprietors considerably increased since that time. With respect to the list of persons between 70 and 100, it may be observed, that 17 of these were from 70 to 80, and 8 of them from that to 100; 2 of these are since dead, 1 of them aged 85, and the other 92. The most remarkable instances of longevity



*Language, Customs and Character.*—With regard to the people in general, and those things which mark and distinguish them, it may be observed, that they retain nothing of

longevity of late years, were James Anderson, who died at the advanced age of 100, and John Andrew, so old as 102, according to the report of his family. As to proprietors and tenants, it may be noticed, that there are but few of the former whose properties are extensive, and of the latter whose farms are large; and as the greater part of each of these is in grass, the labour of the female becomes more necessary than that of the male servant to manage them. And this accounts for the disproportion that is between them. The number of both however is diminished during the winter, both because they are less necessary, and because their wages are very high. The men get from L. 4 to L. 6, and the women from L. 2 to L. 2, 10 s. for the half-year. From which it is obvious to remark, that labour is very expensive here. The wages of an ordinary labourer are from 1 s. 4 d. to 1 s. 6 d. a-day, from the beginning of February to the end of November, and in time of harvest they are still higher, as then he gets the same wages and his provisions also. How to account for this it must be considered, that there are but few of this class, and that these few live within two hours walk of the great works in a neighbouring parish, where they can find employment at all times and on their own terms. Having a situation so inviting always before them, and circumstances of advantage, which it is not their interest to neglect, so easily in their power, it is natural for them to avail themselves of them, which they accordingly never fail to do; so that it is impossible to say what the price of labour, and where labourers may be found in a few years in this part of the country. From what I have said, it will be easily inferred, that there are none of these works within the bounds of this charge; and considering its distance from coal and fuel of every kind, and its deficiency in water to answer these purposes, it is more than probable that none of them ever will be in it. Nor is this a matter of any regret to me, how much soever I may suffer with others, from the causes which prevent them. For although I rejoice in the prosperity of my country, and in every thing that tends to the improvement and happiness of mankind, yet in the case alluded to, there is reason, I apprehend, to rejoice with trembling. Works that depend so much on the labour of the young, and that must necessarily crowd so many of them together, must be hurtful to their health, and holding out an early and strong temptation to indigent and negligent parents to part with their children, at a time when they should be attending to that education which

is



of the language which was originally spoken in the country, except the names of some places, which are evidently Gaelic, such as Knockmead, Duniflat, &c. Breckenhaugh, (which is a Scotch word), is the name of one of the finest natural objects that is to be met with in this part of the country; for walking upon level ground, which seems to be of considerable extent in all directions, we come, without expecting it, to the top of the hill, where we are struck with

is necessary to form their minds, and secure their usefulness, they must be eventually at least hurtful to their manners; not to mention, that by collecting so many people of all descriptions into one place, they may materially affect, if not exhaust the funds of the poor. But it is not my intention to reflect upon works, in which human ingenuity seems to be carried almost as far as it can go, and in which persons of the first character and greatest respectability are concerned. And therefore I remark, that as to what relates to the poor, those stated in the table are not the only persons who receive from the funds. There are besides these, several others whom it is found necessary to assist from time to time, but who are not entered on the poor's list, because they are able to do something for themselves, and that they may be the more industrious. The capital of their fund commenced about 60 years ago in the time of Mr Rouat. He was what is called a popular preacher, and popular with this peculiarity, that he was equally esteemed by the great and the common people; and being well attended every Sabbath by both, the collections were such as to enable the session or vestry, to raise a little, as a stock, which has been increasing ever since, and is now pretty considerable. The interest arising from this and the contributions at the church door on Sundays form the annual income, which is appropriated to the exigencies of the poor, and is usually more than sufficient to answer their demands and to put them above the necessity of begging. Begging, however, is daily practised by those who come from other places. Restrained from following this at home, and knowing how ready the people here are to listen to them, and relieve them, they pour in upon them from every quarter, and importune them every hour. But that cannot be charity which brings abroad the idle and the diseased, and that cannot be charity which distributes with an indiscriminating hand. Charity thinketh no evil, but charity must think the truth; and while it does, it must as infallibly lead us to discountenance begging, as it will lead us to be merciful, and full of compassion to the poor.



with the greatness of the height, and the grandeur of the valley below. In this situation, we feel every thing which the magnificent can inspire, not without a wish to retire from it with all convenient speed.—The language which they speak is a mixture of Scotch and English, and has no other singularity, but the slow drawling manner in which it is spoken, and that they uniformly pronounce *sow*, *sai-w*, and *mow*, *mai-w*. The only custom which they may be said to retain is that of having great and expensive burials. It is no unusual thing when a wealthy person dies, to invite two or three parishes to attend his funeral; and as they are limited to no particular hour, great part of the day is taken up in coming to it, and waiting on it. But the loss of labour, and the loss of time, are not the only evils that follow it; it becomes oppressive to those who cannot afford the expense, but who, from vanity or pride, must continue the custom. Many things have been objects of taxation, and were this as universal as it is unnecessary, it would be wise and merciful in the Legislature not to exempt it. In describing their character, it may be justly said, that they are of the principles of the Church of Scotland, and that these have the happiest influence on their civil and religious conduct. Warmly attached to the constitution in Church and State, they are zealously affected for the interests of both, and are almost as rarely seen to separate from the church as they are heard to be disloyal to their King. Nor are they less exemplary in the other duties of their station; so that it but seldom happens, that any of them are addicted to the common vices of the age; and there are but few of them who cannot show, that the hand of the diligent maketh rich. Among a people of this complexion, taverns cannot be numerous, nor be attended with bad effects; for few will be inclined to keep them, where little business and little profits are to be



be expected. There would accordingly be still fewer than the present number in the parish, were it not for the public roads, which are frequented by strangers, and from whom chiefly they derive their encouragement, small as it is.

*Ecclesiastical State, Stipend, School, &c.*—The next article in order is the church, under which it may be proper to give some account of it in ancient and modern times. Dunlop was one of the many parishes that had been appropriated to the monastery of Kilwinning, and of which that monastery became the beneficiary or titular. This is evident from a transaction between the Commendator of Kilwinning and Cuninghame of Arket, in the year 1581, whereby the former gives in tack to the latter the whole teinds, parsonage and vicarage, of the parish of Dunlop, for a certain number of years, and with the exception of certain lands therein specified. At an early period, therefore, and as soon perhaps as it was designed a parish, it may be supposed, that it would have a parish-church, and that the church may have stood at first at a place which is called the Temple-house to this day. But when it was built, and how long it continued there, cannot be known, as there is no vestige of it remaining, and as the tradition concerning it is almost gone. The next place where we find it, although equally uncertain of the time of its erection, is in a situation which was happily chosen for the purposes of duration in those days, standing at the bottom of a rock, extending itself in the form of a breast-work, and under the gloom of the trees and brushwood with which it would be covered. It possessed every thing that was requisite to inspire the worshippers with reverence, and to promote the severity of their acts of mortification, which the nature of their sin, or the pleasure of their priest, might enjoin; but whether it was customary in these cases, to repair to a  
large



large detached stone in the field above, and there to perform part of them, is somewhat doubtful. The stone has been called, time immemorial, Thugirstane, for the reason just now hinted, say the people, but more probably for its being found by itself, Thugirstane being a corruption or an abbreviation of The girt or great stone. Hard by the church was a spring, which still continues, and from which issues a stream of the finest water, and in such abundance as to fill a bore of 2 inches diameter. It is styled in all the old writings, which mention it, the Chaplainry of the blessed Virgin Mary, which shows, that it was dedicated to her; and that the stepping stones in the burn, over which the people passed in their way thither, were called the Lady's Steps, for the same reason; which name the place still retains, although there be now a bridge at it. From what remains of it, it appears to have been a small house, but large enough, it may be presumed, to accommodate the inhabitants, which, probably it did till the Reformation, when it was either deserted or destroyed. In a different and more elevated situation, stands the present church; but having been rebuilt about 27 years ago, the date of its first foundation, if there was one, has not been preserved. It is pretty certain, however, from an inscription on the gravestone of Mr Hamilton, who died in the year 1608, and who is said to have served the cure here 45 years, that it was built at the Reformation, or soon after it\*. The

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stipend,

\* Having mentioned Mr Hamilton, I am naturally led to take notice of the tomb in which he and his wife are buried. It is built of hewed stone, and covered with a stone roof in the inside; it is arched and plastered, and bears evident marks of having been painted and ornamented. In the floor, on a flat stone, is the following circumscription. "Heir Iyis Hanis Hamiltoune Vicar of Dunlope, quha deceisit Ye 30 of Maie 1608, Ye aige of 72 zeirs, and of Janet Denhame his spous." At the east end, under a marble arch, with two marble pillars of the Composite order in front,



Stipend, including what is allowed for communion-elements, is *communibus annis*, about L. 92 : 1 : 4 Sterling. The school-house, which is a good substantial building, consists of 2 floors, one of which is employed by the school, and the other by the schoolmaster's family. It was one of the

front, are two statues kneeling on a marble monument, in the attitude of devotion, and habited according to the fashion of the times. On the wall beyond them, which is also marble, are these lines in capital letters: "Here lye the the bodies of Hanis Hamilton sonne of Archibald Hamilton of Raploch, servant to King James the Fift, and of Janet Denham his wife, daughter of James Denham, Laird of Westhielde. They lived maryid together 45 yeeres, during which tyme the said Hanis served the cure at this church. They were much beloved of all that knew them, and especially of the parishoners. They had six sonnes, James, Archibald, Gavin, John, William and Patrick, and one daughter Jeane, maryed to William Muire of Glanderstone.

Rom 8. CH. The dust of time lyis in this artful Frame,  
 ver. 18. The Whose birth them honored from an honored Name,  
 afflictions of A painful Pastor and his spotles Wife,  
 this life are Whose devout Statues emblime here there Life,  
 not worthy Blest with the height of favors from Above,  
 of the glory Blood, Grace ablest Memoriall all mens Love,  
 which shall A fruitfull ofspring on whom the Lord hath Fixt,  
 be showed Fortuns with virtue and with honor Mint,  
 unto us. Then live these Dead above in endles Joyes,  
 Here in their Seid and Noble Cland'eboyes,  
 In whom (Graunt soe O Heavens) their honor'd Name,  
 May never die but in the death of Fame.

Prov. 31 Ch.  
 ver. 10 & 30.  
 The price of  
 a virtuous  
 woman is  
 far above  
 pearles.—  
 A woman  
 that feareth  
 the Lord,  
 shall be prai-  
 sed.

Round the verge of the arch is this passage from Daniel, Dan. 12 ch. ver. 3. "They that turn many to righteousness shal shene as the stars for ever and ever." Above this is a fine representation of a curtain parting in the middle, and held aside by a hand on each corner, as if to show them at their prayers. And over the door, on a marble stone, is this inscription, now scarcely legible. "Come Lord Jesus, Come."

16

41

I C L V

As the figures point to the time when the tomb was built, so the initial

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the best houses of the kind till of late, when some have been built in the neighbouring parishes on a larger scale, and in better situations. This is a circumstance that reflects the

tial letters were intended I imagine to represent, that it was built by James Lord Viscount Clandeboy; for so Mr Hamilton's eldest son is designed in an inscription on the school-house, as we shall show in its proper place. It is upon the whole a piece of fine workmanship, and a tribute to the memory of worthy parents, which must have been very expensive to their pious son. But through length of time, and great neglect, it has been much injured; and as there are none who think themselves immediately concerned to keep it in repair, it will soon become ruinous. For none will impute to the present age, what was said of the Pharisees, that they "build the tombs of the prophets and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous." I am not in possession of further information about Mr Hamilton's family, and therefore shall only add, that it is not a little for the credit of Dunlop, that besides those who may be said to belong to it, it has given birth to persons of such eminence and distinction as they certainly were. Mr Hanis Hamilton was great-grandfather to Mr William Carstairs, Principal of the University of Edinburgh, and to Mr William Dunlop, Principal of the University of Glasgow, and Historiographer for Scotland. In Crawford's History of Renfrewshire, published in 1710, Mr Hamilton's eldest son James, is styled Earl of Clanbrysal in the kingdom of Ireland; but whether Hamilton, the present Earl of Clanbrysal, be a descendent of his, I know not. From that period little is known of the ministers of this parish, till the Revolution, when Mr Gabriel Cuninghame was appointed to the charge. He had been one of the indulged ministers, was a man of considerable abilities, and greatly respected by the people. To him succeeded Mr Jamieson, in whom simplicity and godly sincerity were very conspicuous, and who therefore had, what he was well entitled to, the love and affection of his flock. When dying, he left his two sons, who were then only boys, to the care of one Anderson of Craighead, a plain countryman, who undertook the charge, and executed it with great fidelity. The one he bred a merchant, and the other a clergyman, without impairing in the least the little patrimony which was left them. Mr William Jamieson, the clergyman, was minister of Rarick, and author of an Essay on Virtue and Happiness, which may be considered as an ingenious attempt to reconcile what is irreconcilable, the different accounts of moral obligation. After Mr Jamieson was Mr

Rouat.



the highest honour on the gentlemen concerned, and promises to be of extensive utility, by exciting others to follow their example. \*

Rouat, of whom mention has been made already, and concerning whom there are these two anecdotes. The church-officer complaining one day to the servant, that Mr Rouat was too much with the Gentles, was replied to, that her master had scripture for that; for, says the apostle, "Lo we turn to the Gentles." He was convinced and relieved, and perfectly pleased with the gentles. When the sacrament was to be given for the first time by the gentleman who was then minister, Miss Dunlop, afterwards Lady Wallace, came to church rather early, and expressed to an old servant her satisfaction at seeing the house so decently filled. "Madam said the old man, this is nothing to what I have seen in Mr Rouat's time, I have heard the boogers cracking at 6 o'clock o' the morning! The boogers cracking, What do you mean James, said Miss Dunlop? Yes Madam, continued James, I have seen the folk in his time sitting on the barks of the kirk like bykes o' bees." These stories, trifling and ridiculous enough in themselves, show the spirit of the times, and that it was possible in those days, at least for the same person to be a gentleman, a scholar, and a popular preacher. Mr Rouat was afterwards translated to Jedburgh, where he lived but a short time. His son was sometime Professor of Church History in the College of Glasgow, and died within these few years in the possession of all that esteem which was due to the worthy son of a worthy father. Mr Baird succeeded Mr Rouat as minister of Dunlop, and was, if inferior to his predecessor in popularity, his equal in presence of mind, prompt expression, and pleasant manners. He was moreover, like him too, a warm and persuasive preacher, a sincere Christian, and an honest man.—Those that follow are still living.

\* The school-house is of the same age with the tomb, and was built by the same person, as will appear from the following inscription, above referred to :

1641.

" This school is erected and endowed by James Viscount Claneboyes in love to his parish, in which his Father, Hans Hamilton, was pastor 45 years, in King James the sixt his raigne."

1641.

It is unfortunate for the schoolmaster, and indeed for education in the parish, that we know nothing more of that transaction, and it would certainly



tainly be generous in those who may have the means of being acquainted with it, to disclose it, that the intentions of the Noble Donor might be answered, and the circumstances of the teacher bettered. For at present he derives no other advantage from that endowment than the house he lives in; and his place, including every thing belonging to it, does not amount to L. 19 a-year. Why then should we complain of the want of learning in our teachers, or be surpris'd if their successors are not half so learned. In most country parishes the number of scholars is very precarious, and the school-wages exceedingly small, as small in many of them as they were 20 years ago; in which case, what is to be expected, but that either the teacher is himself untaught, or that he is dispirited in teaching, and in a perpetual struggle for a better place. By which means he neglects his present trust, and offends his present employers. It would be wrong indeed to make them independent of their office, but it would be as far wrong to starve them in it. Let them have what is proper to call forth their exertions, and to reward their abilities, and then we shall see the profession as respectable as it is useful.

NUM.



## NUMBER XXXVII.

## PARISH OF GRANGE,

(COUNTY OF BANFF, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY OF  
STRATHBOGIE.)

*By the Rev. Mr FRANCIS FORBES.*

*Name, Situation, Extent, Mountains, Rivers, Soil, &c.*

**T**HIS parish takes its name from *Grangia*, a middle age term for a farm, or country residence. This name was given to the lands called the Davoch of Grange by the Abbots of Kinlofs, who had here a castle, in which they frequently resided, attracted by the beauty of the situation, the castle being built upon the top of a small mount, partly natural, partly artificial, surrounded with a dry ditch, upon the south side of a rising ground, overlooking extensive haughs, then covered with wood, and the small river Isla meandering through them for several miles. The church lies 16 measured miles S. W. from Banff, 12 S. of Port-foy, 10 N. of Huntly, and nearly 4 E. of Keith. The pa-  
rish



rish is almost square, being, at a medium, 6 miles from N. to S. by 5 miles from E. to W\*. The parish extends N. from the banks of Isla, in 3 long but low ridges, terminating in the mountains called the Knockhill, Lurg-hill, and hill of Altmore, which divide it from the fertile countries of Boyn and Enzie †. The Knockhill is a very high conical hill, upon the N. E. corner of the parish. It is detached all round from the rest of the ridge, and is seen at a great distance every way, both by sea and land, as it rises considerably above any of the adjacent hills, and has very

\* This parish is part of the district called Stryla, or Strath-isla; so called from the small river Isla, which runs along the south side of it from W. to E.; dividing a farm or two, on the north side of the ridge of hills called Ballach, from the rest of this parish; and empties itself into the Deveron, about two miles east of the parish, after a short course of 12 miles, in which it receives a number of rapid mountain-streams, which cause it frequently to overflow its banks, and damage the crops upon the haughs; which, for 5 miles of its course, in this and the neighbouring parish of Keith, are about half a mile broad. In the years 1768, 1782, 1787, and 1789, the river did incredible damage to the crops upon the haughs. In 1768, the greater part of the crop being cut, but not got in, a flood swept the whole away. In 1782, 1787, and 1789, the floods came earlier in the season, and blasted the crop in shooting; in 1789, in particular, the haughs were 11 times overflowed, from the time they were sown, before the crop was got in.

† *Altmore* signifies 'The great Burn,' and is the name of a large and rapid stream, which takes its rise in these mountains, and running from N. to S. falls into Isla, dividing the parish of Keith from Grange, the whole length of its course. Other 3 burns in this parish take their rise in these mountains, and running from N. to S. parallel to the burn of Altmore, fall also into Isla; two of them, the burn of Pathnie and the Lime-burn, run between the 3 ridges or divisions of the parish above mentioned; the third, the burn of Millagyn, is the boundary of the parish upon the E. separating it from Marnoch and Rothesnay. These burns, together with Isla, abound with very fine trout of different kinds: which are the only fish found in them, except in autumn, when the salmon, with which the Deveron abounds, come up Isla to deposit their spawn; but no clean salmon are ever caught in Isla. Otters are sometimes found in Isla, and in these burns.



very much the appearance of a volcano at a distance, though it has no signs of one when more nearly examined; for it is covered with peat bank over the top, to the depth of 6 or 8 feet at least. The average height of the Knock-hill above the adjacent vallies may be about 400 yards. It is said, that in a clear day, part of 12 counties can be distinctly discerned from the top of it. There are only other two hills in the parish. The hill of Sillicearn makes part of the eastmost of the three ridges, into which the parish is divided. It rises about 100 yards above the rest of the ridge, extending from N. to S. about two miles, and from E. to W. above a quarter of a mile. The Gallowhill is a small hill of about 200 acres area, making part of the Davoch of Grange, lying N. of the church, upon the south end of the middle ridge or division of the parish, and is so called, because it was the place of execution for criminals, tried and condemned in the abbot's regality-court; for the Abbots of Kinlofs, as well as the great feudal barons, had an heritable right of judging in all civil and criminal matters in their own domestic court, by their bailie of regality, within a certain district, generally their own estates, and from this court there lay no appeal; nay, they could even reclaim a cause out of the King's courts, if it belonged to their jurisdiction, and judge it in their own. This right, so derogatory to the honour and power of the Crown, and to the administration of justice in the national courts, as well as to the liberty of the subject, was abolished after the rebellion in 1745, and a compensation in money given by Parliament to the heritable proprietors. The low part of the parish is in general pretty generally cultivated, except some low mosses, and the cultivation has crept more than half up the surrounding hills. The land for a mile N. of the water of Isla, lying upon the side of a rising ground, sloping to the south, is a good soil, tolerably dry and early, and  
very



very fertile in good seasons, and when well cultivated ; but two-thirds of the cultivated ground in the parish to the N. are cold, wet, and late, the soil consisting chiefly of a poor clay, upon a till bottom, or a spongy mossy soil. The air of the parish is moist, owing not only to the wetness of the soil, but also to the ridge of hills between it and the sea, which attracts the clouds as they pass from the Moray Frith, and make them discharge their contents in torrents upon Stryla, when there hardly falls a drop on the coast side. Stryla seldom suffers by a dry season, but always by a wet one.

*Antiquities, Heritors.*—This parish appears to have been anciently covered with wood, and to have been part of a vast forest, extending from the river Deveron to the Spey, through the parishes of Rothemay, Grange, Keith, and Boharm, as appears from the roots and trunks of oaks, alder, birch, and fir, found in great quantities, in the many and extensive mosses, so frequent in that tract ; but at present this parish is quite destitute of wood, except some solitary trees, scattered in a few farmers yards, a copse of 200 or 300 trees at the house of Edingight, and two small patches of firs, which are not thriving. This gives the whole country a bare and naked appearance. It does not appear that the parish was early inhabited ; there are no traces of Druidical temples in it ; although these are frequent in the neighbouring parishes. The places that have names derived from the Gaelic, (which are not many,) must have been first inhabited ; because that language was universal in Scotland till after the Norman Conquest of England, when the tyranny of the Conqueror, occasioned the flight of great numbers of Anglo-Saxons into Scotland, who, obtaining settlements in the low country, along the east coast of Scotland, introduced their language, which



gradually diffused itself through all the more civilized and best cultivated part of the country ; perhaps the clergy also contributed to diffuse the English language where they had property or establishments. There is reason to think, that the Scotch dialect of the English languages has been the language of the natives of this parish for at least 400 years \*. The lands of Strath Isla, (Strath-heyhiff, as it is spelled in the charter), containing the whole parish of Grange, and a great part of the parish of Keith, were bestowed by William the Lyon upon the abbacy of Kinlois, in the 12th century. The Popish clergy very much promoted the cultivation and improvement of the country, where they had establishments, and large tracts of land granted to them, formerly not very valuable, nor well cultivated, which soon became, under their possession, well cultivated and well peopled. While the barbarous wars and depredations carried on between neighbouring chieftains, often

\* The names of places in this parish, derived from the Gaelic, are said to be descriptive of the local situation, or peculiar properties of the places to which they belong ; and it is probable, that they have been first occupied for the purpose of pasturage, rather than for raising corn. The principal of them, together with what is said to be their meaning, are as follows: *Edingight*, 'The Place opposite to the Wind.' *Fortrie*, 'The cold South-east Hillock.' *Crannach*, 'The Gushet, or Triangle,' alluding to the shape of the ground. *Balamoon*, 'The Moss town.' *Pathnic*, 'The Cow-Hillock.' *Cantley*, 'The frosty Height.' *Auchinboove*, 'The Field of Groves,' &c. This last seems to take its name from one of the fields of battle, with which this parish abounds, and which are said to have been fought between the Scots and Danes, when the latter landed at Cullen, in the reign of Donald III. in the end of the ninth century ; who, as appears from the ancient Scotch historians, defeated the Danes near Cullen, and afterwards at Forres in Moray ; when, as Guthrie conjectures, the famous obelisk at Forres was erected. The Danes, in advancing into the heart of the country, must necessarily pass through the parish of Grange, which is only 4 computed miles distant



often desolated and depopulated their estates, the possessions of the clergy flourished; the oppressed often fled to the church for protection, and took refuge under the wings of the clergy, whose spiritual and temporal power was long very great. Strath Isla was soon well cultivated, and well peopled, under the Abbots of Kinloss, who had great estates, and were very rich and powerful. They frequently lived at their castle of Grange, in great splendour and hospitality, and kept a certain number of monks there, to manage their estates, and cultivate their domestic farm; they erected mills upon Isla for grinding corn, and bound their tenants to bring their whole crop to these mills; because they here levied the tithe of corn, which, since the Reformation, has been exacted under the denomination of that oppressive servitude called multures, afterward to be taken notice of. Upon the first appearance of the Reformation in this kingdom, the then Abbot, whose name was Robert Robison, foreseeing the approaching troubles, began,

distant from Cullen; and there are several trenches or encampments, supposed to be made by the Scots, upon the haughs of Isla, with the defensive side thrown up towards the coast. Two of the fields of battle are clearly to be seen, being covered with cairns of stones, under which they used to bury the slain. One of these fields is on the N. side of the Gallow-hill, not far from the encampments above mentioned; and the other is on the S. side of Knockhill, to which there leads a road, from the encampments, over the hill of Sillicearn, called to this day, 'The Bowmens Road.' Auchinhove, which lies near the banks of Isla, has been another field of battle; and in a line with it, towards Cullen, upon the head of the burn of Altmore, some pieces of armour were said to have been dug up several years ago, but were not preserved; and in the same line, towards the coast, upon the top of the hill of Altmore, there is a cairn, called The King's Cairn, where probably the Danish King or General was slain in the pursuit. There are no other antiquities in this parish but The Abbot's Castle, already mentioned; of which there now remains nothing but a heap of rubbish; being entirely destroyed for the sake of the stones, which are very scarce in this corner, for building houses.



gan, about the year 1535, to feu out his lands in Stryla, to the tenants that then possessed them, for such sums of money as he could obtain, and the payment of a small yearly feu-duty, reserving to himself, however, the tithe of corn paid at the mills. His successor, who was the last ecclesiastical abbot, completed what his predecessor had begun, reserving only the feu-duty; which, upon the dissolution of the abbacy, came into the possession of Edward Bruce, created commendator, or lay abbot of Kinloss, and passed from him to the family of Lethen in Moray, who at present draw about L. 42 of feu-duty from this parish. Grange, being thus feued out among a great number of small proprietors at the Reformation, continued in that situation, except some few changes, till towards the end of the last century, when Alexander Duff of Braco got possession of the greatest part of these small feus. The Davoch of Grange, with the heritable jurisdiction belonging to it, was the last property which the abbots had in Stryla; which, after being possessed successively by Abernethy Lord Salton, Lord Ochiltree, and Macpherson of Cluny, belonged to the family of Gordon for more than a century, till the present Duke exchanged it with the Earl of Fife, for some lands in Moray, in the year 1779. At present, the Earl of Fife, the representative of Alexander Duff of Braco, possesses four-fifths of the parish; Captain Innes of Edingight, whose ancestors were original feuars from the abbots, possesses one-sixth; and the Earl of Findlater the remainder. Edingight is the only residing heritor.

*Population.*—According to Dr Webster's report, the number of souls then was 1797. That the population of this parish was considerably greater a century ago than it is at present, and has gradually decreased during all that period,



period, will appear probable, from the table below, accurately extracted from the register of baptisms and marriages \*.

No

\* In the Year 1684, from 15th March, the Baptisms are 51 ; and in the

| Year | Mal.                        | Fem.             | Bapt.            | Mar.            | Year | Mal.             | Fem.             | Bapt.            | Mar.             |
|------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1685 | —                           | —                | 80               | —               | 1716 | 28               | 37               | 65               | 16               |
| 1686 | —                           | —                | —                | —               | 1717 | 28               | 36               | 64               | 11               |
| 1687 | torn.                       | —                | —                | —               | 1718 | 26               | 20               | 46               | 10               |
| 1688 | —                           | —                | 46               | —               | 1719 | 37               | 31               | 68               | 14               |
| 1689 | —                           | —                | 54               | —               | 1720 | 25               | 21               | 46               | 16               |
| 1690 | defa-<br>ced.               | —                | —                | —               | Av.  | $30\frac{1}{10}$ | $29\frac{3}{10}$ | $59\frac{4}{10}$ | $14\frac{3}{10}$ |
| 1691 | —                           | —                | 40               | —               |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1692 | —                           | —                | 70               | —               | 1721 | 30               | 26               | 56               | 14               |
| 1693 | —                           | —                | 57               | —               | 1722 | 33               | 17               | 50               | 11               |
| 1694 | —                           | —                | —                | —               | 1723 | 23               | 18               | 41               | 19               |
| 1695 | Defaced and im-<br>perfect. | —                | —                | 12              | 1724 | 29               | 19               | 48               | 16               |
| 1696 | —                           | —                | —                | 15              | 1725 | 33               | 25               | 58               | 14               |
| 1697 | —                           | —                | —                | 13              | 1726 | 25               | 24               | 49               | 14               |
| 1698 | —                           | —                | —                | 9               | 1727 | 22               | 28               | 50               | 12               |
| 1699 | —                           | —                | —                | 9               | 1728 | 23               | 14               | 37               | 16               |
| 1700 | —                           | —                | —                | 2               | 1729 | 29               | 19               | 48               | 9                |
| Av.  | —                           | —                | $57\frac{5}{8}$  | 10              | 1730 | 23               | 22               | 45               | 16               |
|      |                             |                  |                  |                 | Av.  | 27               | $21\frac{2}{10}$ | $48\frac{3}{10}$ | $14\frac{1}{10}$ |
| 1701 | 17                          | 9                | 26               | 14              |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1702 | 21                          | 18               | 39               | 18              | 1731 | 14               | 20               | 34               | 17               |
| 1703 | 17                          | 21               | 38               | 19              | 1732 | 24               | 20               | 44               | 15               |
| 1704 | 24                          | 22               | 46               | 15              | 1733 | 24               | 14               | 38               | 25               |
| 1705 | 16                          | 24               | 40               | 21              | 1734 | 33               | 17               | 50               | 24               |
| 1706 | 28                          | 22               | 50               | 18              | 1735 | 22               | 24               | 46               | 21               |
| 1707 | 30                          | 26               | 56               | —               | 1736 | 22               | 31               | 53               | 11               |
| 1708 | 21                          | 21               | 42               | —               | 1737 | 20               | 18               | 38               | 21               |
| 1709 | 37                          | 31               | 68               | 9               | 1738 | 28               | 30               | 58               | 15               |
| 1710 | 29                          | 17               | 46               | 12              | 1739 | 26               | 28               | 54               | 10               |
| Av.  | 24                          | $21\frac{1}{10}$ | $45\frac{1}{10}$ | $15\frac{6}{8}$ | 1740 | 15               | 17               | 32               | 26               |
|      |                             |                  |                  |                 | Av.  | $22\frac{8}{10}$ | $21\frac{9}{10}$ | $44\frac{7}{10}$ | $18\frac{5}{10}$ |
| 1711 | 31                          | 31               | 62               | 14              |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1712 | 30                          | 36               | 66               | 16              | 1741 | 18               | 23               | 41               | 8                |
| 1713 | 33                          | 27               | 60               | 14              | 1742 | 20               | 17               | 37               | 19               |
| 1714 | 36                          | 28               | 64               | 20              | 1743 | 27               | 22               | 49               | 19               |
| 1715 | 27                          | 26               | 53               | 12              | 1744 | 36               | 28               | 64               | 15               |

Year



No register of deaths or burials was ever kept here till, in 1783, an act of Parliament was passed, imposing a duty upon the registration of baptisms, marriages, and burials; after which, a register of burials was attempted to be kept, but the tax was so odious and unpopular, (being considered by the majority of the people as a tax upon their misfortunes), that it could not be collected, but with great difficulty; at the same time, that it afforded little information concerning the state of mortality in the parish, as a great part

| Year | Mal.             | Fem.             | Bapt.            | Mar.             | Year | Mal.             | Fem.             | Bapt.            | Mar.             |
|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1745 | 24               | 14               | 38               | 10               | 1770 | 18               | 21               | 39               | 14               |
| 1746 | 19               | 18               | 37               | 10               |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1747 | 20               | 18               | 38               | 13               | Av.  | $19\frac{8}{10}$ | $18\frac{4}{10}$ | $38\frac{3}{10}$ | $15\frac{1}{10}$ |
| 1748 | 24               | 21               | 45               | 7                |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1749 | 29               | 21               | 50               | 8                | 1771 | 22               | 15               | 37               | 9                |
| 1750 | 21               | 23               | 44               | 11               | 1772 | 13               | 19               | 32               | 17               |
|      |                  |                  |                  |                  | 1773 | 15               | 12               | 27               | 14               |
| Av.  | $23\frac{8}{10}$ | $20\frac{5}{10}$ | $44\frac{3}{10}$ | 12               | 1774 | 9                | 23               | 32               | 22               |
|      |                  |                  |                  |                  | 1775 | 14               | 9                | 23               | 12               |
| 1751 | 22               | 20               | 42               | 7                | 1776 | 17               | 11               | 28               | 18               |
| 1752 | 20               | 27               | 47               | 17               | 1777 | 12               | 14               | 26               | 16               |
| 1753 | 16               | 20               | 36               | 24               | 1778 | 14               | 12               | 26               | 13               |
| 1754 | 33               | 25               | 58               | 15               | 1779 | 14               | 15               | 29               | 18               |
| 1755 | 26               | 14               | 40               | 13               | 1780 | 12               | 17               | 29               | 28               |
| 1756 | 19               | 26               | 45               | 15               |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1757 | 17               | 17               | 34               | 12               | Av.  | $14\frac{2}{10}$ | $14\frac{7}{10}$ | $28\frac{0}{10}$ | $16\frac{7}{10}$ |
| 1758 | 25               | 20               | 45               | 7                |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1759 | 21               | 11               | 32               | 20               | 1781 | 21               | 19               | 40               | 22               |
| 1760 | 21               | 18               | 39               | 15               | 1782 | 17               | 18               | 35               | 10               |
|      |                  |                  |                  |                  | 1783 | 16               | 12               | 28               | 11               |
| Av.  | 22               | $19\frac{8}{10}$ | $41\frac{8}{10}$ | $14\frac{5}{10}$ | 1784 | 20               | 19               | 39               | 12               |
|      |                  |                  |                  |                  | 1785 | 18               | 21               | 39               | 8                |
| 1761 | 19               | 24               | 43               | 13               | 1786 | 26               | 19               | 45               | 11               |
| 1762 | 22               | 21               | 43               | 20               | 1787 | 16               | 12               | 28               | 11               |
| 1763 | 21               | 19               | 40               | 14               | 1788 | 14               | 18               | 32               | 5                |
| 1764 | 17               | 15               | 32               | 15               | 1789 | 13               | 14               | 27               | 10               |
| 1765 | 24               | 13               | 37               | 17               | 1790 | 16               | 13               | 29               | 11               |
| 1766 | 25               | 23               | 48               | 19               |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1767 | 14               | 12               | 26               | 12               | Av.  | $17\frac{7}{10}$ | $16\frac{5}{10}$ | $34\frac{3}{10}$ | $11\frac{1}{10}$ |
| 1768 | 17               | 17               | 34               | 21               |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 1769 | 21               | 19               | 40               | 8                | 1791 | 11               | 16               | 27               | 11               |



part of the burials comes from other parishes, and many persons dying in this parish are buried elsewhere; so that from the most attentive observation, for 4 years that the register was kept, it appeared that the burials did not correspond at all with the deaths; for these reasons the register was given up. The register of marriages is rather a register of the contract and publication of banns of every individual in the parish that is contracted, whether they marry or settle in the parish or not; but those females that are contracted to men in other parishes, though their contract be recorded here, do not add to the number of married couples in the parish, for they generally remove from it altogether. This will account, in some measure, for the great disproportion that sometimes appears between the marriages and baptisms in the table; and it is likewise to be observed, that the dissenters register all their contracts, but few or none their baptisms. The baptism-register appears to have been accurately kept, except during the period from 1771 to 1780, during which the church was vacant  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years, and the people were frequently obliged to go to neighbouring clergymen to get their children baptized; and not having an immediate opportunity of recording their childrens names, many of them did entirely neglect it. If, therefore, the register had been regularly kept during that period, the average number of baptisms, would probably have been about 36, instead of  $28\frac{2}{10}$ ; certainly it would have been greater than it is. At any rate, the writer of this is sure, that the names of all the children of the members of the Establishment are regularly recorded from the year 1780; and though the Seceders, and other dissenters, do not register the names of their children, there is every reason to believe, that their numbers are not so great now, as that of the Papists and Episcopalians were at the beginning of this century, when the first Presbyterian minister was settled here;



here ; so that the regular decrease of the average number of baptisms in every 10 years, from the beginning of this century, (the first 10 years only excepted, which, it is to be observed, immediately succeeded the 7 years of famine, during K. William III.'s reign), affords a strong presumption, if not a positive proof, of a decreasing population. That the population has decreased very considerably since the year 1780, is perfectly consistent with the incumbent's knowledge ; for that year, the number of souls was 1980 ; in the year 1782, it was 1875 ; in 1784, only 1760 ; in 1789, diminished to 1598 ; and in this year 1791, when an accurate list of them was taken up, for the purpose of this statement, the number of souls is 1572, of which 697 are males, and 875 females ; of whom

|                         |                    |               |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 333 are below 10 years, | 2 consist of 12, - | 24            |
| 312 between 10 and 20,  | 1 ——— — 13, -      | 13            |
| 563 ——— 20 and 50,      | —— ——— —           | ——            |
| 249 ——— 50 and 70,      | 403 families.      | Souls 1572    |
| 88 ——— 70 and 80,       |                    |               |
| 27 ——— 80 and 90.       |                    | Householders. |

|                             |                           |   |     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---|-----|
|                             | Married pairs,            | - | 216 |
| There are 403 fam. of which | Do. men, whose wives      |   |     |
| 62 consist of 1 person,     | 62 do not reside with     |   |     |
| 71 ——— — 2, -               | 142 them, -               | - | 2   |
| 70 ——— — 3, -               | 210 Do. women, whose hus- |   |     |
| 53 ——— — 4, -               | 212 bands do not reside   |   |     |
| 52 ——— — 5, -               | 260 with them, -          | - | 6   |
| 36 ——— — 6, -               | 216 Single women,         |   | 51  |
| 34 ——— — 7, -               | 238 Widows, -             | - | 70  |
| 10 ——— — 8, -               | 80 Widowers, -            | - | 29  |
| 7 ——— — 9, -                | 63 Bachelors, -           | - | 29  |
| 3 ——— — 10, -               | 30                        |   | ——  |
| 2 ——— — 11, -               | 22                        |   | 403 |

Not



|                                                    |         |                                                                                                    |   |     |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----|
| Not householders.                                  | Cooper, | -                                                                                                  | - | 1   |
| Married pairs,                                     | 2       | Chelsea pensioners,                                                                                |   | 2   |
| Do. women, whose husbands do not reside with them, | 5       | Clergyman of the Establishment,                                                                    | - | 1   |
| Widows,                                            | 18      | Do. of the Secession,                                                                              |   | 1   |
| Widowers,                                          | 7       | Schoolmaster,                                                                                      | - | 1   |
| Male-servants,                                     | 112     | Students at college,                                                                               |   | 3   |
| Female-servants,                                   | 82      | Dissenters from the Establishment,                                                                 | - | 163 |
| Weavers,                                           | 26      | Papists, 5 of whom are below 10 years,                                                             |   | 42  |
| Shoe and brogue-makers,                            | 21      | Episcopals, 7 of whom are below 10 years,                                                          |   | 31  |
| Tailors,                                           | 11      | Seceders, 25 of whom are below 10 years,                                                           |   | 90  |
| Blacksmiths,                                       | 12      | Of the above, there have come into the parish since last year, of Papists, 3 of whom are below 10, |   | 10  |
| Square and cart-wrights,                           | 10      | Episcopals, 4 of whom are below 10,                                                                |   | 16  |
| Merchants,                                         | 8       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Masons,                                            | 3       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Millers,                                           | 2       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Gardeners,                                         | 2       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Basket-maker,                                      | 1       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Butcher,                                           | 1       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Wheel-wright,                                      | 1       |                                                                                                    |   |     |
| Heckler,                                           | 1       |                                                                                                    |   |     |

There are 5 houses that sell ale or spirits; there is one village, a mill-town, called Nether-mills of Stryla, which contains 92 souls\*.

4 B

Agriculture,

\* The causes of the depopulation, that have come to the knowledge of the present incumbent, are chiefly the following: 1st, The uniting several possessions into one farm; which has affected the population for a long time past. What was formerly two or more freeholds, each of which not only maintained the frugal and industrious proprietors, with their families, but also several cottagers, who had likewise numerous families, are now frequently united into one farm, on which there are few or



*Agriculture, &c.*—Agriculture is in a worse state at present in this parish than it was 10 years ago. Before the year 1782, the improvements in farming, introduced by the

no subtenants. The lime-trade, which, for centuries back, has been the principal employment of all the inhabitants, was incompatible with large farms. The largest farm formerly did not exceed 15 or 20 bolls sowing; and every farm was skirted with a number of subtenants, who were bound to assist their masters, in spring and harvest, with their services, which was generally the greater part of the rent they paid for their possessions; and they were allowed to keep as many cattle and sheep upon the common pasture as they pleased; and each district of the parish had a large tract of pasture in common. Whenever the seed time was over, all hands were employed till harvest, and even after harvest was over, in providing fuel, and in burning and driving lime; and before lime was brought by sea from England, and the frith of Forth, Ströla supplied almost all Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, and Moray, with lime; for which they received, as long ago as can be remembered by the oldest people, nearly the same price as they do now. They had also a kind of short flax, which is now entirely banished out of the country, but of which they formerly raised great quantities; the drying, breaking, scutching, beating, heckling, spinning, weaving, and bleaching of which, not only afforded employment to men and women, at certain times of the year, when they could not work at the lime-trade; but brought in a great deal of money in those days, and Keith market was formerly resorted to from all parts of Scotland for purchasing linen-cloth. This, together with the low rents which they paid, the cheapness of victual, for which there was no market but among themselves, and the numbers of black cattle and sheep which the then extensive pastures enabled them to keep, (many of which they fattened and killed for their own use, because there was no demand for them at that time from the south country or from England), enabled them to live comfortably, and bring up numerous families; and young people were not deterred from entering early in life into the married state from fears of want. A very small stock was sufficient to begin the world, and that stock was easily acquired. But when shipping and trade became more common upon the coast, and the exportation of corn commenced at Portsoy, then the farmers thought they could make more profit by the sale of corn, than by the lime-trade, or by subtenants; they therefore enlarged their farms, by removing their subtenants. The heritors also extended the corn-land, by dividing the commons, and setting off



the late patriotic Lord Findlater into his adjoining estates upon the coast side, had crept gradually into this parish.

### Carts

off portions of them to the poor people to cultivate. These were bad subjects for bearing corn, being naturally of a poor, wet, sour, stony, or mossy soil; and when once the sward of them was broke, they soon ceased to be good either for grass or corn, and improvers were unable to cure the natural barrenness of the soil with plenty of rich manure. The loss of the pasture was an irreparable loss to the farmers, the immense numbers of sheep and black cattle, which were formerly kept upon the hills to which there was easy access, on the pastures, and on the green mosses, now almost wholly cast up for turff, or ploughed and burnt for corn, produced a great deal of manure, which raised plenty both of grass and corn; but the pasture being curbed and destroyed by the new improvements, the cattle and sheep dwindled away, and the fields of consequence did not produce as formerly. The farms were necessarily enlarged; this increased the number of candidates for farms, and consequently raised the rents, by suggesting the plan to heritors, which they have too steadily adhered to, of setting up farms to roup. The high prices given for cattle within these 30 years, also tended greatly to advance the rents, and to diminish the number of subtenants, whose possessions were now become necessary for pasture. The new improvements soon became unfit, for the reasons already assigned, to maintain the improvers and their families, even with all the advantages of moss and lime; this occasioned the uniting several improvements into one possession. All these changes, tended to lessen the population. 2<sup>d</sup>, The decay of the lime-trade. Many places that were formerly supplied with lime from Stryla, can now be supplied with English shells, cheaper than it can be manufactured here with peat, (always a precarious fuel, and obtained at much expense of time and labour), and carried to a great distance, not less than 8 or 10 computed miles; whereas formerly people came from a great distance, and bought it at the kilns and carried it themselves. 3<sup>d</sup>, Emigrations, principally to the south country, occasioned partly by the rise of wages, and the demand for hands, for the purposes both of agriculture and manufactures there; but chiefly by the impolitic severity of the landholders, afterward to be taken notice of. 4<sup>th</sup>, and lastly, A great mortality has prevailed in this parish for several years past. The parish was always esteemed healthy, till within the last 10 years, notwithstanding the moisture of the climate; but the moisture cannot stagnate, as it is exposed to very high winds from almost every quarter. As a proof of its healthiness, there



Carts for carrying dung, lime, and grain, were universally adopted in place of creels, currocks and sacks on horses backs. The levelling and straighting of ridges, and cultivating of green crops, such as turnip, potato, and sown grass in small quantities, were becoming pretty common among the most considerable farmers, and were rapidly gaining ground, when the scarcity in 1783 put a stop to all improvement by green crops, and made the farmers think of nothing but raising grain; and the more so, as in these wet and late seasons, the best cultivated lands often produced the worst crops, because they continued to grow till the frosts

there were about 200 of the inhabitants alive, upwards of 70 years of age, in the year 1780. Before that time consumptions were not near so frequent as they have been since. This may be justly attributed, in a great measure, to the effects of the scarcity, and bad victual, in the year 1783; to the long and inclement harvests in 1782 and 1787; in both which seasons, the labourers were exposed to much cold and wet, during three months that each of these harvests continued; but principally to the change that has of late years taken place, in the manner of living among the lower ranks. Formerly every householder could command a draught of small-beer, and killed a sheep now and then out of his own little flock; but now the case is very different; few of the poorer sort of householders can keep any sheep, for the reasons already assigned, or even afford a little beer, or a bit of meat, upon the Christmas holidays. Among the poor, the want of nourishing diet, nay, the frequent want even of the very necessaries of life, which their industry is often not sufficient to procure for them, to which may be added, their wretched damp uncomfortable houses, to which they enter through the dunghill, the putrid effluvia of which they breath continually; and among the middling ranks, dejection of mind, consequent upon a change of circumstances from affluence and independence to struggling with debt and want, appear to be the principal causes of the prevailing distempers, and mortality in this parish. Young people are in general cut off by consumptions, and those more advanced in life by low nervous fevers and dropics. There are no disorders that seem to belong peculiarly to the climate, unless that old people are generally distressed with rheumatisms. Of late, neither the small-pox nor any inflammatory disorder has been very prevalent or mortal. The complaints are principally nervous.



frosts came upon them before they were properly filled. The tenants in this parish were in general at that period in very good circumstances, the greater part of them having from L. 50 to L. 150 or upwards out at interest, besides the stocking of their farms; but the whole rent of the parish was more than doubled a few years before; and in 1783, not only between L. 3000 and L. 4000 Sterling, supposed to be brought into the parish, one year with another, for grain and lime, was wanting, but nearly as much was given out for victual and feed. This, together with a succession of bad seasons and crops, and the advance of servants wages, greatly reduced the tenants, and brought many of them in arrears, upon which they were summoned out of their possessions. This broke their spirit for industry and exertion, as they then laboured only for, and held their all at the discretion of the landholders, who from time to time seized and confiscated their whole effects for payment of their arrears, and left the poor families no resource, but to go to service, to begging, or to emigrate to the south country, or elsewhere, in quest of employment; and even some of those tenants that were able to weather the storm, are only now receiving new leases for 8 or 9 years, including two or three of their former leases not expired. But in general new leases are never granted till the former be entirely expired, which always exposes the farm to be overcropped, as nothing but its being quite worn out will give the possessing tenant a chance to renew upon reasonable terms, and that only for 19 years at farthest, without any encouragement to inclose, or build good houses; and no respect is paid to the best cultivator, nor even to the tenants in best circumstances; he that will promise most rent is always preferred. Considering these circumstances, and the heavy oppressive multures and mill-services to which they are subjected, amounting to  
between



between an eighth and ninth part of the whole crop, it is a wonder that the state of agriculture is even so good as it is.—The surface of the parish may be estimated to contain about 16,000 acres; little more than 4000 of which are under tillage; and only 2567 are in crop this year; 1873 in oats; 538 in barley; 76 in pease; 60 in turnip and potato; about 20 in flax; and between 80 and 90 in sown grass. There are 167 ploughs yoked; of which 42 consist of 8 or 10 oxen each. There are only 3 or 4 two-horse ploughs, that go without a driver, and 1 two-oxen ploughs. This is a great saving; and it is astonishing, that 2 horses, or 2 oxen in a plough, are not more generally adopted, considering the great scarcity and high wages of servants. The rest of the ploughs consist of 4 or more horses each, or cattle and horses yoked together, as those who have small possessions can afford. Almost all the farmers, who yoke oxen ploughs, yoke one or more horse ploughs. The plough almost universally used is the plough with curved mould-board. There are upwards of 400 carts of one kind or other; of these only 12 are two-horse draughts, and 6 are oxen wains.

There are in this parish 388 oxen, 521 cows, 944 young cattle, 452 horses, and 2582 sheep, mostly of the black faced kind, which, by a most unaccountable predilection for size, (the only property of this breed,) has very generally banished from the North of Scotland, the small white faced native breed, which produced a very fine wool, and fine flavoured mutton. Some farmers are improving their breed, by crossing with English rams. The black cattle are all of the Scotch breed, and generally of a small size, being worked too young, which stunts their growth, and they are frequently sold off to the dealers before they arrive at their full size. The average price of oxen may be stated



at L. 5, 5 s. Sterling; of cows, about L. 4 Sterling; of young cattle, about L. 2 Sterling each. The prices of horses are from L. 3 to L. 30, but the average price of the ordinary size of work horses may be about L. 8 Sterling, and the average prices of sheep about 6s. Sterling each. There are 40 farmers in the parish, that pay from L. 15 to L. 50 rent; and one farmer pays L. 250 a-year. The parish produces much more grain than is necessary to maintain the inhabitants, unless in very bad seasons. The land yields very differently in different places, but, at an average, it may be estimated to yield about five returns, including feed. The rent is as various as the soil; being from 2 s. 6 d. to L. 1, 1 s. Sterling the acre; at an average, it lets at about 10 s. Sterling the acre gross rent. The whole rent of the parish, including mill-multiples, may be about L. 2000 Sterling a-year\*. There are none of the farms in the parish inclosed, except the farm of Knock, possessed by Lord Fife's factor, which is inclosed with stones, with which that corner of the parish is well supplied; and the Mains of Edingight, which is inclosed with stone fence and ditch. Hedges and ditches are, indeed, the only practicable mode of inclosing the greater part of the parish, as there are few or no stones to be had, except limestone quarried at a considerable expense, and which can hardly be obtained of any size fit for building. But hedges and ditches are much more proper for inclosing the greater part of this parish than stone fences; as the ditches would tend to drain the wet soil, and hedges to shelter a bleak and open

\* Pease and oats are generally sown in March and April, and barley sometimes in the end of April, and till the end of May, and beginning of June. Turnips are sown from the middle of June to the middle of July. Hay is cut in the month of July. Harvest generally begins about the middle of September, though in early seasons it used sometimes to be finished by that time; but it is more frequently ended in November; and in 1782 and 1787, it was not all got in till the end of December.



open country ; but the heritors give no encouragement for inclosing of any kind \*.

*Manufactures.*

\* Wages of all kinds have advanced greatly within the last 40 years. Here follows a comparative statement of the wages then and now.

The best ploughmans wages in the

year 1750 were yearly,

|                                                  |         | L. 1 13 4 | in 1791, L. 6 0 0 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|
| The second best ditto.                           | in 1750 | 1 6 8     | 5 0 0             |
| A man in harvest,                                | in do.  | 0 12 0    | 1 10 0            |
| A woman servant,                                 | in do.  | 0 16 0    | 2 2 0             |
| Ditto in harvest,                                | in do.  | 0 6 0     | 1 0 0             |
| A common labourer for ordinary work, the day,    | in do.  | 0 0 3     | 0 0 6             |
| Ditto, casting peat, cutting hay, or in harvest, | in do.  | 0 0 5     | 0 0 10            |
| Women [when employed in the moss, or in harvest, | in do.  | 0 0 3     | 0 0 6             |
| Ditto, at hay making, or lint pulling,           | in do.  | 0 0 3     | 0 0 4             |
| A mason's wages,                                 | in do.  | 0 0 6     | 0 0 10            |
| A wright's wages,                                | in do.  | 0 0 4     | 0 0 8             |
| A tailor's wages,                                | in do.  | 0 0 2     | 0 0 6             |

With the above wages they receive their victuals from their employers. Here follows also, a comparative statement of the prices of provisions for the same years.

|                                                   |        |                                 |        |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|--------|
| A boll of barley in 1750, sold at L.              | 0 10 0 | in 1791, L.                     | 0 16 0 |
| A boll of oats,                                   | 0 6 0  |                                 | 0 10 6 |
| A boll of oat-meal, at 9 stone,                   |        |                                 |        |
| (157 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. aver.)                     | 0 8 4  |                                 | 0 15 0 |
| 1 lb. of butter, (24 oz. aver.)                   | 0 0 4  | from 5 d. to 9 d.               |        |
| 1 lb of cheese, ditto, formerly sold by the piece |        | from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4 d. |        |
| A goose,                                          | 0 1 6  | from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d.          |        |
| A duck,                                           | 0 0 3  | from 5 d. to 7 d.               |        |
| A hen,                                            | 0 0 3  | from 5 d. to 7 d.               |        |
| A chicken for the brander,                        | 0 0 1  | from 2 d. to 3 d.               |        |
| A dozen of eggs,                                  | 0 0 1  | 2 d.                            |        |
| Beef the pound,                                   | 0 0 1  | from 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 4 d. |        |
| Mutton,                                           | 0 0 1  | from 2 d. to 3 d.               |        |
| Pork,                                             | 0 0 1  | from 2 d. to 3 d.               |        |
| A pair of brogues to a man,                       | 0 0 10 | 3 s. 4 d.                       |        |
| A pair ditto, to a woman,                         | 0 0 7  | 2 s. 6 d.                       |        |

} formerly  
fold by  
the leg;



*Manufactures.*—The only manufactures in the parish are lime, and linen yarn. There are inexhaustible quarries of the very finest limestone in almost every part of the parish, and nature had amply provided the means of manufacturing it, in the extensive mosses, with which a great part of the parish was formerly covered, and which are not by any means exhausted by the consumption of many centuries; though they are become more distant and inaccessible than they were, and will now wear out much faster, as the surface of them is generally dug up for turf, which puts an end to their growing. The quantity of lime burnt in this parish, about 40 years ago, was estimated at 60,000 bolls, of 64 Scotch pints to the boll, which was sold, at an average, at 6 d. the boll. The quantity at present manufactured, may be estimated, at between 20,000 and 30,000 bolls, which sells, after being carried from 6 to 10 computed miles, at an average, at 8 d. the boll. The heritors lay restraints upon the making of lime, both because it exhausts the mosses, and draws off the attention of the people from their farms. Indeed they seldom lay any of it on their own possessions, from an ill founded prejudice, that it would not be useful, but hurtful, to ground that stands on limestone, though frequent experiments, made by different farmers in the parish, prove that it is capable, when judiciously managed, of producing remarkable crops. The spinning of linen yarn, and making of coarse linen from Scotch flax, was long practised, (as already observed,) before the manufacturers began to import Dutch flax, and gave it out to spin, which they have done for many years. Since that time, there is but a small proportion of the Scotch flax spun for the market; as the quality of the flax is not so soft and fine as the Dutch flax, owing perhaps both to the nature of the soil, and to the management of the flax. There is, however, a good deal of it made into coarse li-

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nens, both for home consumption, and likewise for sale, and some of it is sold in yarn ; but the manufacturers complain, that the spinners draw it beyond the grist, that they may have the more out of their flax, which hurts the sale of the yarn at the market. But the spinning of yarn from Dutch flax is the principal employment of the women, and is computed to bring in about L. 1500 Sterling annually.

*Roads and Bridges.*—There are 24 measured miles of roads within this parish, made and repaired by statute-labour.

|                                                                                              | Miles. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| The road from Banff to Keith, - - -                                                          | 7      |
| The road from Cullen and Portsoy to Keith, -                                                 | 4      |
| The road from Aberdeen, Huntly and Rothemay, through Grange, by Newmill, to Fochabers, &c. - | 4      |
| The private road from Rothemay to Edingight, by Knock, - - - - -                             | 3      |
| The private road from Braco-house to Knock, -                                                | 4      |
| The private road from Berryhillock to the house of Edingight, - - - - -                      | 2      |

On the road from Aberdeen, Huntly and Rothemay, through Grange, there are 4 good bridges over the 4 streams that intersect the parish ; two of these bridges were built last year, out of the vacant stipends of the neighbouring parish of Rothemay, and are of great importance to the whole country, as they are upon a well frequented road, and across two very rapid and dangerous streams. There is also a bridge over Isla, near the church, which “ was built in 1699, by Alexander Christie, tenant in “ Cantley, for the glory of God, and the good of the “ people of Grange,” as the inscription bore, being built to render the church accessible to the people of Cantley, which is the farm upon the south side of Isla. 100 merks  
Scots



Scots were lodged in the hands of Edingight, by the said Alexander Chriftie, to be laid out by the direction of the kirk-session, for repairing and upholding said bridge; which appears from the records to have been all expended before the year 1740. As the bridge was too narrow to allow carts to pass, being intended originally for foot-passengers only, and as it was then the only bridge upon Isla below Keith, Sir William Forbes, the patron of the parish, gave a year and half's vacant stipend for repairing and enlarging it, which was done in the year 1783, in a very superficial manner, so that the new part of it threatens soon to go to ruin: And indeed the bridge is not even so publicly useful as could be wished, as it is not on any of the public roads. The old bridge, which was fit for answering every necessary purpose in the place where it was, could have been repaired at a very small expense, so as to have stood for many years, by a parish contribution: it is to be regretted, therefore, that the vacant stipend was not made part of a fund for the purpose of building a new bridge over Isla, in that part of the parish where the roads from Banff, Cullen, Portfey, Keith, &c. all meet, and cross Isla at the same place. The roads are in wretched repair, the statute-labour being employed upon them principally in autumn, when the day is short, and the earth soaked with the autumnal rains. The difficult passes are rendered still worse, by having the loose wet clay thrown into them; for proper materials are never sought for, nor brought from a distance when they are not at hand, but the mire from the ditches is thrown into the middle of the road, so that a piece of new made or mended road is generally impassable. Add to this, that the statute-labour (which is a most unequal and oppressive tax upon the poor, in the way in which it is at present levied) is performed with the greatest reluctance. A poor labourer, who has neither horse nor cart, and per-  
haps



haps little or no crop, and whose labour cannot maintain a numerous family of young children, who therefore must be supplied from the poors funds, is obliged to work on the roads six days in the year, while a farmer who pays L. 40 or L. 50 rent, works 4 carts, and needs only one servant and himself, except boys for herding, is liable only for twice as much as the poor labourer; and servants are entirely exempted from this heavy tax, though they are much better able to bear it than many householders\*.

*Church, Stipend, School, Poor.*—This parish, in times of Popery, belonged to the parish of Keith, and was erected into a separate parish in the year 1618, (Presbytery records). The present church was originally a chapel of ease, built by the abbot, and dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it is now in a ruinous condition, and never was fit to contain the congregation. The manse, which was built about 40 years ago, was repaired in 1778 and in 1787, and is still a bad house. The offices are tolerably good, but

\* The statute labour ought therefore to be converted into money by act of Parliament, and exacted in different proportions, according to the circumstances of the persons; for instance, a poor householder, that has little or no crop, ought not to be assessed above 1 s. a year; a servant that has no family ought to be assessed 1 s. 6 d.; tenants ought to pay according to their rent, or the number and kind of carts they employ; and heritors (who are at present entirely exempted, and whose rent rises in proportion to the easy communication by good roads) ought to be taxed in proportion to their rent: If such a scheme was adopted, and the roads contracted for, they would soon be made, so as to save 50 per cent. of the expense of transporting commodities, and also of the tear and wear of carriages and harness: And after the roads were once effectually made or repaired, the tax could be reduced considerably, and yet the roads be kept in excellent repair. The act ought also to contain a clause, appointing a committee, of equal numbers of the most respectable tenants, as well as landholders, in each district, to carry the act into execution, that there might be no improper exemption.



but only thatched with heath, which is a bad roof. The stipend is 1000 merks Scots in money, and  $25\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, at 8 stone, including L. 4, 4 s. for communion elements; and a glebe of 5 acres, of tolerably good soil. Sir William Forbes of Cragievar, Bart. is patron. The schoolmaster's salary is 12 bolls of meal, collected in lip-pies and pecks, from every householder in the parish that possesses any land, in proportion to what they possess; 10 merks Scots of a mortification; L. 2 Sterling as precentor and session clerk; 2 s. for every proclamation of banns; and 4 d. for the registration of every baptism; about 30 scholars, at an average, attend the school; from whom he receives 1 s. 3 d. the quarter for reading English; 1 s. 6 d. for reading and writing; and 2 s. for arithmetic and Latin; which altogether may amount to about L. 18 Sterling yearly. The number of scholars might be many more; but the school-house is small, and at a corner of the parish; the schoolmasters are frequently changed, owing to the poor encouragement; and the people are, from habit, backward in sending their children to school; they allege, that by the time their children begin to make any progress with a schoolmaster, he is about to remove to a better place or business. The school is not accessible in winter to above one third of the parish; the minister, therefore, with concurrence of the heritors, made application to the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, in the year 1782, and got a schoolmaster appointed to the most distant parts of the parish, upon condition, that the heritors would pay L. 4 yearly of his salary, and give him a house, garden, fuel, and a cow's grass *gratis*; which they would not agree to do, and the schoolmaster was removed; the consequence of which must be, that the rising generation will be bred up in ignorance. If the salaries of parochial schoolmasters are not made something better worth



worth the while of a man of liberal education, that most useful institution will soon be abandoned altogether, (as it would have been already, in many places, were it not a kind of interim employment to poor young lads, while at college, and during the time they are studying divinity,) and then the country people will return to ignorance and barbarism: but the present fashionable paradox is, that *ignorance* is the mother of *industry*; which is equally well founded with the ancient aphorism, that *ignorance* is the mother of *devotion*. As ignorance is the nurse of superstition, so is it peculiarly favourable to a state of slavery; and the savage state, which is a state of ignorance, is a state of *indolence*, not of *industry*.—The poor are supported by the weekly collections, fines from delinquents, hire of two mortcloths, and hand-bell at funerals, rent of the churchyard, rent of the seats of a gallery in the church, with the interest of L. 240, previous to the year 1783. In the year 1782, the crop in this parish was so wretched, that if it had been all made into meal, it would not have maintained the inhabitants for two months; and the victual was so bad, that its effects, together with the scarcity, proved fatal to the constitutions and lives of many, (as already observed); however, the inhabitants were supported, one way or other, with what they had remaining of the former crop, and what they could purchase at L. 1, 4 s. Sterling the boll, of 9 stone, ( $157\frac{1}{2}$  lb. Averdupoise,) from the neighbouring countries of Enzie and Moray, (where the crop was much less affected by the bad season,) till they were relieved, by the importation of white pease, and other grain, in April and May. The session imported 200 quarters of white pease, with their funds, together with L. 100 Sterling, lent to the session, free of interest for nine months, to purchase grain for the benefit of the poor, by a manufacturer in the parish, who, by uncommon industry, attention



attention and integrity, had, without any original stock, in a few years, acquired some hundred pounds, and who, besides the above generous and benevolent exertion in behalf of the poor, imported great quantities of all kinds of grain, flour, biscuit, &c. which he sold out at little or no profit. Lord Fife also bought excellent barley at the London market, and oats for seed; but as they were sold out for ready money, many of the poor tenants, who were under the necessity of employing all their ready money for purchasing victual for their families, were obliged to sow their own seed, which did not grow; and even the oats, they bought from the coast side for seed, at L. 1, 1 s. and upwards the boll, though it looked beautiful, and was well filled, did not grow, but rotted in the ground; and indeed, in this country, the worst filled corn, and the corn that was last cut in harvest 1782, was the only corn that did vegetate tolerably next year. This ruined the next crop, which, had the seed been good, would have been a plentiful one, as the summer and harvest 1783 were the best that have been since; this made the scarcity and dearth continue in this country, till crop 1784 relieved it. The session made the pease they bought into meal, and sold it out at or below prime cost to poor families, and great numbers were supplied *gratis*, besides those upon the roll, whose numbers were also greatly increased; so that when the heritors and session met upon the 1st of July 1783, to report to the Barons of Exchequer the state of the parish, in order to enable them to judge what proportion of the victual bought by them, with the L. 10,000 granted by Parliament for the relief of the poor, in the northern counties of Scotland, they reported, "That the number upon the poors roll amounted to 200, and that L. 50 Sterling is already expended in a partial relief to those in greatest distress; that upwards of 1200 have been supported,



supported by imported grain from the end of February; and that more than 800 souls will stand in need of assistance from the poors funds, (supposing they were sufficient for that purpose), before they can be supplied from the crop upon the ground, which cannot be expected sooner than three months hence." Upon this report, the Barons of Exchequer, sent in all, 79 bolls of meal, at different times, to be distributed *gratis*, and  $102\frac{1}{2}$  bolls, to be sold at 8 s. 8 d. the boll. This was a great relief. Lord Fife also sold out the meal in his gernel, and what multure farm came in, at 16 s. Sterling the boll; and he deducted a fifth part of the tenants money-rent for 1783, upon condition, that they paid up the remainder, together with the arrears of the former rent, and the price of their deficient farm or victual rent, by the 1st of February 1784; but many of them were rendered unable to take the benefit of his Lordship's liberality \*.

*Advantages.*

\* Here follows a statement of the amount, and disposal of the poors funds, for three different periods, *viz.* for 4 years preceding 1783; during 1783 and 1784; and for 4 years immediately preceding the date of this report.

1st Period.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Average annual collections, fines, interest, legacies, lost-rents &c. from 1st December 1778 to 1st December 1782,                                                                                        | L. 31 19 4              |
| Average annual distributions to the poor, for the above period, including about L. 5, 5 s. Sterling annually to the infirmary at Aberdeen, and for paying session-clerk and kirk officer's (beadle) fees, | L. 25 10 $8\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Average number of the poor upon the roll for said period, 31.                                                                                                                                             |                         |

2d Period.

|                                                                                                                                               |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Collections, &c. during 1783 and 1784,                                                                                                        | L. 47 19 0 |
| Distributed in money in 1783 and 1784, including L. 10, 4 s. to the infirmary at Aberdeen, and to pay session-clerk, and kirk officer's fees. | L. 48 2 2  |
| Distributed to the poor upon the roll, in meal, during these two years, 125 bolls 2 firlots 1 peck, at 16 s. the boll,                        | L. 100 9 0 |



*Advantages and Disadvantages.*—The advantages that this parish possesses are, that it is not far from a leap-port, where

3d Period.

|                                                           |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Average annual collections, &c. from 1st December 1787    |            |
| to 1st December 1791,                                     | L. 35 16 9 |
| Average annual distributions to the poor for said period, |            |
| including about L. 5. 5s annually to the infirmary at     |            |
| Aberdeen, and to pay session-clerk and kirk officer's     |            |
| fees,                                                     | L. 33 6 0  |
| Average number of the poor upon the roll in said period,  | 35.        |

Besides the above mentioned sources of relief to the poor, there is a great deal given in private charity, not to travelling beggars only, but the people in general are uncommonly humane and benevolent; and when any poor person or family is afflicted with sickness, or any other unexpected calamity, the neighbours do not wait to be solicited, but carry meal, or whatever else the situation requires, or their circumstances can afford, and they watch with the sick, &c. Many of the poor also have bags in the mills, into which every one puts as he can spare, or as charity disposes him. And on the Christmas holidays, the young men go out in parties through the parish a-begging for the greatest objects; and several bolls of meal, and some pounds Sterling of money, are collected every year, and committed to the care of the members of session, for behoof of those for whom it is collected. This practice has an excellent effect upon the morals, both of young and old; it disposes the old to acts of liberality, and draws forth their sympathy towards the distressed, and it trains up the young to acts of benevolence and charity. This practice is also a great support to the funds, which are beginning again to recover, from their dilapidation in 1783 and 1784. The heritors also, being convinced by experience of the importance of having a fund in reserve against a time of scarcity, resolved to take the poor's money and pay 5 per cent. yearly for it; (whereas before 1783 it was lent out at 4 per cent. a-year, payable only once in two years.) By this means, together with some legacies, and strict oeconomy, the funds are again accumulated to L. 200 at interest. The session takes a disposition to the effects of those that are taken upon the roll, (unless in such years as 1783 and 1784) with the burden of taking care of them in sickness and in their last illness, and of defraying their funeral charges, which must not exceed L. 1 Sterling; allowing the relations of the deceased to redeem the effects, by repaying to the session a year's contribution, immediately preceding the death of the pauper, and defraying the funeral charges.



where there is generally a market for grain, victual, &c. when it is plenty; and in the neighbourhood of the fertile countries of Boyn, Enzie and Moray, from whence, and by importation, a supply can be obtained in wet and late seasons, when the crop fails in Ströla; and that it possesses the means of improvement by lime, so near, and in such plenty. But the disadvantages are many; a cold, wet, and late soil and climate, and consequently uncertain crops; short leases; no encouragement to tenants to improve their land, to inclose or build good houses; heavy and oppressive mill multures, which take between an eighth and a ninth of all that the tenant carries to the mill, and even of what he buys, in times of scarcity, if it be manufactured within the facken. The tenant also is obliged to pay 10d. for every boll of oats carried to the shore, and sold sometimes as low as 7s. and never above 12s. the boll, and every farm pays a certain number of bolls of barley, for what barley is sold, and for keeping in the mill-water; notwithstanding which, the tenants are compelled to personal service, for keeping in the mill-water, and to perform other mill-services, such as bringing home millstones, and upholding the mill, if required so to do; and to carry the mill farm-meal to Macduff, 17 miles distant, which they are generally called to do in the spring season. This servitude amounts almost to a prohibition to improve, as it is at least a tax of 12 *per cent.* upon the produce of improvements; besides, the tenants are liable to be called to give an account upon oath, before the baron-bailie, what they have bought or sold for three years back; and if a man's memory, who cannot keep accounts, has failed him, and he conscientiously refuses to take an oath, he is charged arbitrarily. Such a mode of proceeding is surely contrary to the essential principles of justice, and very hurtful to morals, as frequent oaths, (especially where the interest  
of



of the person taking the oath may be materially affected thereby), must often be \*. Bad roads is another disadvantage, and the unequal and oppressive tax of statute-labour, totally inadequate to the making or upholding such an extent of road; besides that it is often misemployed, at the will of the commissioners or directors of the district, on private roads, while public ones are neglected.—The tax upon coals also is a great grievance. A great and precious part of the year, both to the farmer and limer, must be employed in providing and driving fuel; whereas, were it not for the heavy tax upon coal, the farmer would gain two months of the summer, which could be employed in cultivating turnip, managing hay, working fallow, or preparing manure; and, at the same time, be better served with fuel, by bringing coal from the shore, when he carried his grain thither; and the limers would find it their interest also, to burn their lime partly with coal, rather than with peat alone; because, instead of driving it some miles farther to get a penny more for the boll, that they may make as much as possible of their fuel, they could burn more, and sell cheaper; and when they went to the shore for coal, they could always carry a draught of lime with them. Some years ago, a very wet season compelled some of them to try coal, and they found a mixture of peat and coal answer so well, that they continue to use a little coal now and then.—The people also complain much of the unequal and oppressive nature of the excise and distillery laws. The last partakes so much of the nature of a monopoly, that the distillers, unless in a time of scarcity, when the grain is wanted for meal, combine and keep the price

\* Since writing the above, the multures in this parish have been converted by the baron-bailie at 2 s. 3 d. upon the pound gross rent; besides paying the miller largely for work and mill services as before.



price of barley low ; and consequently the spirits, which are generally of a bad quality, are sold at a low price, which has a tendency to destroy both the constitutions and the morals of the people, for punch and dram-drinking are now too generally substituted in the public houses in place of beer, which was a much more wholesome beverage ; and the heavy excise on malt, which is also rigorously enforced by the distillers for obvious reasons, tends to produce the same effect, and also to prevent poor people from having malt or beer in their own houses, the want of which proves very hurtful to the health and constitutions of the labouring poor ; and when a poor man has a boll of barley to dispose of, he can hardly sell it at all, or only at a very low price, generally what the distiller pleases to give ; whereas, before the establishment of distilleries, and the additional excise on malt, a poor man made his boll of bear into malt, and paid the duty for it, and then distilled from it an excellent spirit, which he sold at a high price to the rich, and thus obtained a good price for his grain, and the grains and offals helped to maintain, and often to preserve the lives of his cattle when provender was scarce ; now the whole advantages that were before enjoyed by the poor, are, by the distillery law, thrown into the hands of the rich distillers, (for none can be distillers upon the present plan but the comparatively rich), while malt and beer are in a manner entirely prohibited \*.

\* The impolicy as well as oppression of the distillery law will appear from this circumstance, that a distiller takes out a licence for a 40 gallon still, for which he pays a duty to Government of L. 40 a-year, and an officer employed to attend that still receives a salary of L. 50 a-year. The heavy excise on malt also, which in effect amounts to a total prohibition, necessarily promotes smuggling, which is always injurious to morals, as well as hurtful to the revenue ; and it is universally thought, that Government does by no means draw so much from the northern counties



of Scotland of excise-duties, as even to pay the salaries of the officers employed to levy it, notwithstanding the oppressions that the people suffer on account of it. It seems to be the general opinion, that if the excise and distillery laws were repealed in the north of Scotland, and the revenue raised by them yearly, including officers salaries, were transmitted to the commissioners of supply of the counties, to proportion it among themselves and tenants, they could pay in the same with the land-tax, and by this means, the revenue would be improved by the whole amount of the officers salaries at least, and the country would think themselves infinitely better, as they would then be permitted to do with their grain what they pleased without molestation.

### NOTE.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—There are no objects of natural history peculiar to this parish. Limestone is the only mineral worth mentioning. The only wild beasts are the fox, the weasel or polecat, and the hare. The birds are few and common; moorfowl, partridge, plover, wild duck, bittern, rook, jackdaw, magpie, lark, sparrow, yellow-hammer, robin, wren, watercock, linnet, and a few others. The parish is occasionally visited in winter by snow-birds, and in spring by flocks of sea-gulls, and now and then by hawks, kites, ravens, and herons. The migratory birds, are the lapwing, cuckoo, corn-rail, and swallow. There are no noted mineral springs in this parish, though some of them are considerably impregnated with iron; but there are two consecrated wells, one at the foot of a small natural mount adjoining to the castle of Grange, which, with the mount, had been dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and are now called the Ladyhill and the Ladywell. The other spring is on the south bank of Isla, directly opposite to the church-door, and is called the Croikwell, probably from *Croix*, cross. The greater part of the people are rather above the ordinary size, and it seems have always been so. There are at least as many men in the parish above 5 feet 8 inches as there are below it; and several are 6 feet high: Accordingly such of them as go into the army, generally enlist either into the Guards or Train of Artillery. The ancestors of the greater part of the present inhabitants have lived in this parish for some centuries back, and many of them are descendents of the ancient feuars in the parish. The most ancient names are, Innes, Adamson, Richardson, Riddoch, Longmoor, Carr, Kelman, Scot, Sim, Ballach, Beg, Craib, Gray, Howie, Allan, Wilson, Taylor, Reaper, Dyker, Neil, &c. &c. There are no persons of remarkable eminence, that have been born, lived, or died in this parish. It has indeed been  
I long



long famous for producing a great number of clergymen, and there are five ministers of the Establishment, and one of the Church of England, now alive, that were born in this parish. Besides, there are many natives of it in the East and West Indies, in America, in London, and through many parts of Great Britain, that are all doing well in different lines of life. The people are in general regular in their attendance upon the ordinances of religion, and they are, upon the whole, sensible, sagacious, social, humane, obliging, sober industrious, and well behaved: no instance having occurred of any native being executed or banished within the last 50 years; two instances of suicide, indeed, have happened within that period, the one of a man about 25 years ago, the other of a woman about 50 years ago.



NUMBER XXXVIII.

P A R I S H O F C R I E F F,

(COUNTY OF PERTH, SYNOD OF PERTH AND STIRLING,  
PRESBYTERY OF AUCHTERARDER.)

*By the Rev. Mr ROBERT STIRLING.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, &c.*

**T**HE name of Crieff may be derived from the Gaelic word *Craobb*, a “tree;” the letters *bb* having the sound of *f* or *v*; or more probably from *Crubha Cnoc*, the “haunch of the hill;” the town being built on a rising ground, which may be considered as the haunch of the hill immediately beyond it, that stands detached from the Grampians, and is called the *Cnoc* or *hill*, by way of eminence. Crieff is 18 miles W. from Perth, and 20 N. from Stirling, near the foot of the Grampian mountains on the S. E. side; has a fine southern exposure, a most delightful variegated prospect of hills, woods, vallies and rivers, to the W.; the open extensive country of Strathearn to the S. and E. with the ancient seats of many families of distinction all around. These circumstances, together with the



the serene air, and the dry healthy situation, have induced people of taste and science, who frequently reside there during the summer months, to account it the *Montpelier* of Scotland. Crieff is in bulk the second town in Perthshire. The parish in its utmost extent may be divided into the *highland* and *lowland* parts, which are detached from each other by the intervention of the parish of Monzie. The most considerable district of the former is the long Strath of Glenalmond, the property of the Duke of Athole, through which the Almond runs a course of 8 miles. That and the other parts of the highland division afford advantages for game, trouting, and other summer amusements, equal to any in the Highlands; may yield L. 700 yearly rent to the three proprietors, and contain about 500 inhabitants: But being annexed *quoad sacra* to Monzie, will be more properly described along with that parish, and shall therefore be no farther noticed in any of the following observations. The *lowland* part of Crieff parish, which falls immediately under the inspection of the minister, is 4 miles long from N. W. to S. E. and 3 broad from S. W. to N. E.; being bounded on the N. E. by the parish of Foulis; on the N. W. by the Shaggy, which separates it from the highland part annexed to Monzie; on the W. by the Torot, which divides it from Monivaird; on the E. by the Pow, which separates it from Maderty; and on the S. it is washed for 3 miles by the Earn, which is the border between it and Muthil, excepting one farm of near 100 acres, which it cut off to the S. side, by leaving its usual bed about the end of last century. These rivers abound in trout, the Earn also in salmon, which the principal heritor has the privilege of catching with cruives. This, however, does not hitherto exclude others from the pleasure and profit of angling. The rivers are all furnished with stone bridges, generally built by



by the voluntary contributions of the country. That of Crieff was the second stone bridge ever thrown over the Earn, consists of 4 large arches, and was built out of the vacant stipend of the parish, in the interval between the suppression of Episcopacy in 1690, and the re-admission of a Presbyterian minister in 1699.

*Soil and Productions.*—Near one half of the parish, that is, along the W. and S. sides, is of a light, sandy, sometimes gravelly soil; around the town, from the nature and quantity of the manure, it becomes a pretty rich loam. The other half, to the eastward, is tilly, or a kind of stiff red clay, frequently wet, and lying upon rock of the same colour, which yields a hard durable stone for building, but incapable of hewing; whereas under the sandy soil, to the westward, is an excellent freestone of a light brown colour, that easily cuts in the quarry, and admits of a good polish. Each sort apparently partakes of the nature of the soil under which it is found.—The species of grain raised, are the best white oats of the late kind, bear, commonly called Chester, with sometimes a mixture of barley, plenty of potatoes, a few pease, but no wheat. Some late experiments have not encouraged the general use of that grain. One boll of bear gives  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  bolls of oats 1 boll of meal, besides paying kiln and mill dues. There are 2 very small orchards of an old date, and 2 others of some acres extent, planted within these few years; one of them, near the town, in a good soil and warm S. exposure, must soon be very productive.

*Agriculture.*—Until the year 1774, the old mode of farming by *croft* and *outfield* universally prevailed. As the outfields got no manure except watering, wherever that was wanting, they produced only a species of grey oats,



of which  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bolls made only 1 boll of meal. Then, however, some extensive strata of marl were discovered in the neighbourhood, the use of which quickly introduced a more profitable mode of agriculture; and fields of 4, 8, or 12 acres, began to be sown out in good condition, with clover and rye-grass; 210 stones of that hay may be raised on an acre, if the ground be in good order, and sold before stacking at 4 d. the stone. The change in 20 years, appears from the following view.

| On a Scots acre,                       | In 1772. |    | In 1792.   |    |
|----------------------------------------|----------|----|------------|----|
|                                        | B.       | P. | B.         | P. |
| Sown of the grey oats above mentioned, | 2        | 8  | none sown. |    |
| Reaped of ditto,                       | 7        | 0  | 0          | 0  |
| Sown of white oats in poor land,       | 1        | 8  | 1          | 4  |
| Reaped of ditto in ditto,              | 4        | 0  | 5          | 0  |
| Sown of ditto in good land,            | 1        | 6  | 1          | 2  |
| Reaped of ditto in ditto,              | 5        | 0  | 7          | 0  |
| Sown of bear in ditto,                 | 1        | 2  | 1          | 0  |
| Reaped of ditto in ditto,              | 6        | 0  | 8          | 0  |

|                           |   |   |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Horses yoked in a plough, | 4 | 2 |
|---------------------------|---|---|

|                                                                                  | In 1772. | In 1792. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Expence of liming or marling every 8th or 9th year,                              | L. 0 0 0 | L. 5 0 0 |
| Rent of land near the town,                                                      | 0 10 0   | 2 17 0   |
| —— open land in the country,                                                     | 0 5 0    | 0 12 0   |
| —— best inclosed pasture,                                                        | 0 15 0   | 2 2 0    |
| —— inferior ditto,                                                               | 0 10 0   | 1 0 0    |
| Man servant's wages yearly,                                                      | 3 6 8    | 10 10 0  |
| Board to ditto, $6\frac{1}{2}$ bolls meal, at 13s. 4d. and 8 d. a-week for milk, | 6 1 4    | 6 1 4    |

Maid



|                                                                        | In 1772. |    |                 | In 1792. |    |                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----|-----------------|----------|----|-------------------------|
| Maid servants wages, -                                                 | 2        | 2  | 0               | 3        | 3  | 0                       |
| Board to ditto, 4 bolls 14 pecks<br>meal a-year, and 6 d a-<br>week, - | 4        | 11 | 0               | 4        | 11 | 0                       |
| Best labourers hire a-day, -                                           | 0        | 0  | 9               | 0        | 1  | 0                       |
| Masons ditto, -                                                        | 0        | 1  | 2               | 0        | 1  | 8                       |
| Wrights ditto, -                                                       | 0        | 1  | 1               | 0        | 1  | 6                       |
| Tailors ditto, besides victuals,                                       | 0        | 0  | 5               | 0        | 0  | 9                       |
| Butter, the pound Tron, -                                              | 0        | 0  | 6               | 0        | 0  | 8                       |
| Cheese, the stone do. in summer,                                       | 0        | 3  | 0               | 0        | 3  | 6                       |
| ————— in winter,                                                       | 0        | 4  | 8               | 0        | 5  | 4                       |
| Hens a-piece, -                                                        | 0        | 0  | 6               | 0        | 0  | 9                       |
| Chickens do, or eggs the doz.                                          | 0        | 0  | 2               | 0        | 0  | 3                       |
| Mutton the pound Dutch in Oct.                                         | 0        | 0  | 2               | 0        | 0  | 3                       |
| ————— ditto in June,                                                   | 0        | 0  | 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0        | 0  | 5                       |
| Beef, pork, veal, ditto, -                                             | 0        | 0  | 3               | 0        | 0  | 4                       |
| Coals the stone Tron, summer,                                          | 0        | 0  | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 0        | 0  | 2                       |
| ————— ditto in winter,                                                 | 0        | 0  | 2               | 0        | 0  | { 2 $\frac{1}{2}$<br>3* |

About two thirds of the parish are inclosed, and trees generally planted in hedge-rows along the inclosures. There are only two small hills in it. All the heathy and unarable part of the *Cnoc* or largest, amounting to 222 acres, is planted with firs interspersed with larix, &c. The smallest, 500 yards distant, is all arable; the top of it, however, is also planted. These, and the other plantations in the parish, executed since 1770, may extend to 270 acres. There is little old timber, except about a few gentlemens seats; and only two coppices of oak and birch, which do not together exceed 10 acres. Before 1770, there were a few small plantations of old firs, which have since been almost wholly cut down.

*Population.*

\* Coals rose only in 1792, by the wet season, and want of other fuel.



*Population.* — According to Dr Webster's report, the numbers then were 1414. The population in 1776 and 1792 will appear from the following statement, in which the village of Bridgend is comprehended in the town, as they are nearly joined by their mutual extension.

|                                                | 1776. | 1792. | Increase. |
|------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Families in the country,                       | 91    | 102   | 11        |
| Males, - - -                                   | 228   | 253   | 25        |
| Females, - - -                                 | 217   | 316   | 99        |
| Souls, - - -                                   | 445   | 569   | 124       |
| Families in the town,                          | 450   | 609   | 159       |
| Males, - - -                                   | 676   | 955   | 279       |
| Females, - - -                                 | 856   | 1116  | 260       |
| Souls, - - -                                   | 1532  | 2071  | 539       |
| Families in the parish,                        | 541   | 711   | 170       |
| Males, - - -                                   | 904   | 1208  | 304       |
| Females, - - -                                 | 1073  | 1432  | 359       |
| Souls, - - -                                   | 1977  | 2640  | 663       |
| Papists, - - -                                 | 3     | 25    | 22        |
| Episcopals, - - -                              | 53    | 39    | Decr. 14  |
| Antiburghers, - - -                            | 111   | 205   | Incr. 94  |
| Bereans, - - -                                 | 37    | 50    | 13        |
| Relief, - - -                                  | -     | 96    | 96        |
| Establishment, - - -                           | 1773  | 2225  | 452       |
| Births at an average of 10<br>years preceding, | 52    | 62    | 10        |

Among the heads of families in 1792, were 124 widows; 55 maids, old and young; and 69 bachelors, of whom 15 above 50 years. The whole 711 heads of families consisted of the following classes or offices.

Apothecary,



|                        |     |                           |     |
|------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| Apothecary, physician  |     | Mantuumakers or sew-      |     |
| and furgeons,          | 4   | fters,                    | 11  |
| Bakers,                | 4   | Mafons and a flater,      | 16  |
| Barbers,               | 2   | Merchants or fhopkeep-    |     |
| Butchers,              | 8   | ers, of whom 19 re-       |     |
| Carriers,              | 9   | tail tea,                 | 49  |
| Carters,               | 29  | Meffengers,               | 2   |
| Clergymen,             | 3   | Midwives                  | 4   |
| Clockmakers,           | 4   | Millers,                  | 3   |
| Coopers,               | 4   | Saddlers,                 | 2   |
| Dyers,                 | 4   | Schoolmafters and fchool- |     |
| Diffillers and brewer, | 3   | miftreffes,               | 6   |
| Excife-officers,       | 3   | Shoemakers,               | 29  |
| Fariners,              | 40  | Smiths,                   | 8   |
| (3 above L. 50 and     |     | Spinfters,                | 159 |
| 30 under L. 30.)       |     | Stockingmakers,           | 6   |
| Fidlers,               | 2   | Tailors,                  | 30  |
| Gardeners,             | 2   | Weavers,                  | 92  |
| Gentry,                | 11  | Wrights,                  | 20  |
| Hecklers,              | 7   | Writer and notary public, | 1   |
| Innkeepers             | 17  |                           |     |
| Labourers,             | 111 | Sum total,                | 711 |
| Manufacturers,         | 6   |                           |     |

*Corporations.*—The number in each trade is not precifely afcertained by the preceding table, as it marks only the number of thofe that, in each clafs, are heads of families. The moft material difference, however, is in the clafs of the weavers, who generally train their children to their own employment. They are therefore by far the greateft body of tradefmen. In 1770, they formed themfelves into a corporation, and began to eftablifh a fund for the fupport of their widows, and for the maintenance and education of their orphan children, each operative member paying 12 s.



at entry, and 1 s. annually to the fund. In 1786, they expended L. 200 in building a hall, which yields L. 11 yearly rent, besides accommodating them at all their public meetings. The members now amount to 171; of whom 121 are of this parish. They make an annual procession through the principal streets of the town, on the King's birth-day, with a band of music and magnificent ensigns displayed, in token of their attachment to his Majesty's person and Government. The tailors too have got a hall and a common good, on the same principles as the weavers. And the masons have long had a lodge and a wealthy fund, though the operative brethren are mostly of other parishes, and their funds chiefly enlarged by honorary members; among whom are inrolled many persons of the first rank in the county.

*Causes of increasing Population.*—The rapid increase of population here is owing to several concurring circumstances. The people having had hitherto very little trade, ignorant of the means by which any money they acquired could be improved to advantage, think themselves happy to secure it in a house and garden of their own property. The superiors of the town have wisely encouraged this spirit, and could not dispose of their land more profitably than in small feus to those willing to build upon them. Accordingly, in 1768, a street 16 yards broad and 400 long, was formed by setting off feus 12 yards in front, and 40 in depth, paying no price, but a yearly feu-duty of 4 s. each \*. At that rate, the whole ground, street included, still brings the original proprietor L. 2 the acre. Since 1785, when the forfeited estates were restored, two other streets are forming, by granting feus of L. 400 square ells each, paying L. 4 price and 2 s. 6 d. yearly feu-duty, which,  
being

\* N. B. The old feus were on much lower terms.



being along the side of public roads, and nothing lost by streets, is equal to L. 4, 12 s. the acre annually to the superior. The houses are almost universally two stories high, roofed with blue slate, and consist of four rooms, &c. which generally accommodate two, sometimes three, or even four families; and, with the garden adjoining, bring the feuar L. 5 of rent, if fully inhabited \*. Most of these houses, indeed, would lie waste, were it not that the town standing very near to, and on one of the principal roads leading from the Highlands, it is the first at which the Highlanders naturally arrive, when, by the formation of extensive sheep-farms, without introducing manufactures at the same time, they are compelled to leave their native land, in quest of food, habitation, and employment. Here they find shelter and sustenance at a cheaper rate than in most parts of Scotland; while the improving state of the country, road making, which is here done by commutation of the statute-labour, quarrying, marl-digging, ditching, planting, &c. afford most of them employment and growing wages. Some of the males indeed go farther south for labour, or engage as domestic servants in neighbouring parishes, leaving the females behind; which is one reason of the excess of females observable in the preceding statement. But what encourages them more than any thing else to settle here with their families, is the wise plan adopted by the proprietors of land near the town, equally profitable to themselves and useful to the lower classes, of dividing it into small portions of 20 ells square, at 4 s. each of yearly rent, being equal to L. 2, 17 s. the acre, besides the profit of a nursery; for the lots are distinguished by young trees planted in the corners of them, which the proprietors

\* The yearly rent of the whole feuars in the parish, arising to them from their feus, amounted, in 1785, to L. 734 : 14 : 9.



prietors transplant at pleasure. Thus, every tradesman, and labourer, and even females, have each their own lots, which they cultivate at leisure hours, for raising lint, potatoes, and other necessaries. By this means, those of sedentary occupations preserve their health, and the poor, their lives in time of scarcity: as in 1783, when many of the poorest sort lived from the end of July, almost entirely on potatoes of their own \* rearing, while oat-meal sold at 1s. 3d. the peck. So far as the population is increased by the growth of the original inhabitants, it may be attributed to this circumstance. The tradesmen here, very few individuals excepted, are all on a level; no one chooses to serve another, after he understands business himself. When the young weaver has finished his apprenticeship, and acquired as much free stock as will purchase a loom, furnish a room, and defray the expense of a wedding, he scorns to be a journeyman; but sets up for himself, marries a wife, and becomes the father of a family.

*Manufactures.*—These have hitherto had little effect on the population, in comparison of what they will probably soon have. Besides 3 corn-mills, 3 fulling mills, 1 for malt, 1 for barley, a lint-mill, and lately a threshing mill, there was built in 1780 a paper-mill, that manufactures yearly near 1700 stones of rags, at 18d. the stone, into the coarser kinds of paper. And at the same date, an oil-mill, that presses yearly between 300 and 400 bolls of lintseed of this country's growth, purchased at 18s. the boll.

\* The potatoes of crop 1782, suffered as much as the grain did by the season; and farmers who could afford to live on other victuals, generally reserved theirs for sale in seed time, in hope of a high price. Thus the market was overstocked, and in April and May, potatoes sold at 4d. the peck; and the poor, who had exhausted their own scanty store, got both seed and a new stock of provisions at a very moderate price.



boll. In 1763, a merchant of Crieff erected a paper-mill, being the first of the kind, except one, on the north side of the Forth; an oil-mill in 1775; and in 1785, formed an extensive bleachfield with suitable machinery. And so late as 1792, some other manufacturers of this town erected 2 mills for carding and spinning cotton, and a third oil-mill. These, indeed, for the convenience of ground and water, were built on the opposite sides of the rivers Earn and Torot, in the parishes of Muthil and Monivaird; yet are here mentioned, as they belong to inhabitants of this parish, a considerable number of whose children as well as adults they daily employ. A tambouring manufacture commenced here in 1792, which presently employs 30 girls from 8 to 12 years of age. Those above 10 are engaged four years, and those under 10 five: and receive of wages, L. 3, 10 s. for the first; L. 4, 10 s. the second; L. 5, 10 s. the third; L. 6, 10 s. the fourth; and L. 8 for the fifth year. There are here two distilleries; one consumes 500, the other 250 bolls of bear annually. And one brewery, begun in 1791, which in 1792 made 9600 gallons of beer at 14 d. and 22 d. the gallon from 400 bolls of bear at 15 s. the boll. There was a tannery built in 1782, and a second in 1789. They are both now in the hands of one company, and are supposed in 1792 to have tanned 3100 hides of different sizes, which, when fully manufactured, may bring above L. 3000. Of these hides 981 were bought raw in Crieff for L. 375, the cow-hides at 6 s. 9 d. the calf at 7 s. and 2 d. the stone. Till within these few years, the weavers chiefly worked in linen, worsted stuffs, druggets, and coarse woollen cloths for the country use. Besides these, they are now much employed in working a thin kind of coarse linen called Silefias, vulgarly Scrims, whereof each piece is 27 or 30 inches broad, and 92



yards laid, amounting to 106 from the loom. Each piece brings the workman a guinea, and was finished by him in 24 days, till the introduction of the fly-shuttle in 1791, by which contrivance the same work is done in 14 days. This cloth is all sent to Glasgow, where it is whitened and printed. In 1790, only 2078 yards, but in 1792, 14,777 yards were wrought and stamped in Crieff, and might be sold brown at 1 s. the yard. Of late a few hands are employed in weaving cotton cloth. The pieces are generally 130 yards, bring L. 2. each to the workman, and five guineas more to the owner. The exports are, coarse linen, pack-sheeting, facking, worsted stuffs, druggets, tanned leather, paper, lintseed-oil, linen and cotton yarn, and some cotton cloth; besides L. 7400, in cash or bills to England. The imports are, black cattle and sheep for slaughter, butter, cheese, meal, bear; 563 bags of wheat-flour for L. 1042; 5015 pounds of tea \* for L. 983 : 6 : 8; 520 cwt. of sugar from Glasgow, and 260 cwt. from London, for L. 4095; whisky, porter, wines, and foreign spirits; cloths, silks, muslins, and cloathing articles, to the amount of L. 4700, whereof L. 3500 from England, including L. 213 for buttons; tobacco for L. 350; hardware for L. 340, stone do. tanned leather,

\* When the quantity is specified, it means in 1792. Above 20 times more tea is used now than 20 years ago. Bewitched by the mollifying influence of an enfeebling potion, the very poorest classes begin to regard it as one of the necessities of life, and for its sake resign the cheaper and more invigorating nourishment which the productions of their country afford. The change in the mode of living, in this and some other respects, has perhaps produced a change in the nature of diseases. The acute fever, that 30 years ago often attacked the careless and robust, and came to a crisis in 10 days, is now rarely seen; but to it have succeeded hysterics, diseases flowing from debility and relaxation, and the slow nervous fever, under which the patient languishes for three or six months, and probably never again recovers his wonted vigour. Here, however, the people in general are perhaps as healthy as in any part of Britain.



leather, lintseed, rags, raw hides; lint, wool and raw cotton; linen and woollen yarn; dyers stuffs; iron cast and in bars; foreign food, &c. &c. For conveying these goods and manufactures, 2 carts go regularly once a fortnight to Edinburgh; 2 carts or more once a fortnight to Glasgow; 4 carts twice a-week to Perth; and two or 3 carts twice a-week to Stirling.

*Markets.*—There is here a weekly market on Thursday for all kinds of butchers meat, poultry, butter, cheese, &c. Of the first article, there is ten times more sold now than 20 years ago; each kind too was then to be got only in its most plentiful season, pork in winter, veal in spring, lamb early in summer, mutton from the middle of summer to Christmas, beef from Lammas to Candlemas, when it almost totally disappeared for six months. Now that article never fails, and commonly sells at 4d. veal  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 4d. mutton 5d. 4d. or 3d. according to its rarity. Of six butchers that constantly supply the market, one last year sold in it 73 bullocks, 620 sheep, and calves without number; of which last, sometimes 30 are sold in one day. During the season wherein the inhabitants of the town and adjacent country lay up powdered meat for winter and spring, butchers from other parishes bring great quantities to market; so that in November last, the value of L. 200 has been sold in one day, reckoning 300 sheep at 8s. and 16 black cattle at L. 5 a-piece. That season, however, includes only the months of October, November and December, in which more meat is sold than in all the rest of the year\*. Till  
near

\* Besides the weekly market, there are three annual fairs. The first, St Thomas market on new-year's day, for shoes, home-made cloths, chapmen's wares, &c. The next, Duchlage market, on the 3d Tuesday of June O. S. for the same purposes, and also for the sale of country cattle, which can never be extensive while they are forced to stand in a square of the town. The third, and formerly by far the most considerable, is Michaelmas market, on the 10th of October.



near the middle of this century, Crieff had continued for ages to be the great mart to which the dealers in England annually resorted, to purchase, for the English markets, the droves of black cattle reared in the Highlands of Scotland. And old people here sometimes speak with deep regret of the glorious scene displayed to view, when 30,000 black cattle, in different droves, overspread the whole adjacent country for several miles around the town. A man of 84 now lives in Crieff, whose grandfather, for a long series of years, uplifted custom on that number of cattle, and thereby made a handsome profit to himself, while he paid L. 50 yearly to the landlord. But the principal sale and meeting has since that time been removed to Falkirk, and not a single head directly from the Highlands ever appears now in the market here; though 10,000 passed through the town the first week of October 1792, being only the third part of what met at Falkirk in the second week of that month. Such droves as come this way from the north Highlands, always pass at least before 12 at noon of the day preceding our market, to avoid the customary duties, which they would otherwise be obliged to pay; that is, 1 s. the score, or 1 d. the head for parcels under that number. The cattle-market here now consists entirely of such beasts as have been either reared or at least for some time grazed in the country, and do not exceed one thousand; which are commonly bought up by Scots butchers or graziers. The changing of the market-place for highland cattle arose from the following causes. For a considerable time after the beginning of this century, the drovers from Argyle, Inverness, Ross-shires, &c. paid nothing for the pasturing of their cattle all the way to the market; but in the improving state of the country, grass became more valuable, the roads more confined, and the drovers were forced to in-  
quire



quire after the most convenient and cheap roads from their several homes, to the principal market-place, now at Falkirk, where the roads leading by the shortest course from every quarter of the Highlands towards England, naturally unite; and where the whole of the Argyle and near half of the Inverness shire cattle can arrive some days journey earlier than if they came by Crieff. The additional travel was no loss, while the pasture cost them nothing; but would now considerably affect their profits. By the removal, also, of the noble family that had a particular interest in this market, extortions in the customs, and restraints on the cattle in passing occurred, which justice and patriotism would have induced them to prevent, had they been residing in the country. But especially the inclosing of certain lands adjacent to the town, about the year 1750, by removing some of the drovers from their usual stations, excited such disgust and murmurs as soon terminated in the ruin of the market. Besides the 30,000 cattle above mentioned, it is calculated, that 20,000 met at Falkirk on what is called the August Tryst in 1792, and above 10,000 more were sold at Down in Monteith the first week of November that year; and at least a third part of both quantities passed through this town to these markets. So that the numbers that go south are certainly not diminishing, notwithstanding the increasing consumption every where. Some years, indeed, few in comparison may cross the English border; but if a dry season lessen the demand from England, the extensive pastures and vast consumpt in the south of Scotland, suffer not the drovers to be disappointed of a sale \*.

*Antiquities.*

\* The other commodities of the Crieff Michaelmas market continue nearly in the same state as formerly; particularly the small Highland horses, of which near a thousand appear there annually for sale, as well as a considerable number of the inferior kinds of country horses. On the last



*Antiquities.*—There is scarcely any monument of antiquity in the parish. Even the large detached stones arranged circularly on various eminences, and accounted temples of the Druids, are generally removed for the sake of agriculture. The old parochial church was an antique Gothic building, 95 feet long within; but being only 18 feet wide, and 14 in the quire, was not near half the size of the present church. At the demolition of it in 1787, were found among the rubbish, about 40 pieces of bright gold coin of Robert I. of Scotland, having that King's head encircled with the words *Robertus rex Scotorum*, and St Andrew with his cross on the *reverse*. Each piece was equal in breadth to a guinea of the present reign, and precisely one fourth of it in weight. They were all much worn, and had been deposited in a niche of the wall six feet above the ground-floor, probably in some time of public danger. On a plain, half a mile south from the town, is a circle of 12 yards diameter, (lately surrounded with a low wall of earth and stone, and now left open in the planation,) on which the Steward of the King's estate of Strathern formerly held his court, after that earldom fell to the Crown by the forfeiture of the Countess Joanna, who, having married the English Earl of Warren, was found guilty of treasonable practices against Robert I. and the office of Steward in time became hereditary in the family of Drummond, till the abolition of heritable jurisdictions in 1748. For the accommodation of that court, and other public business, was built in 1665 the present tolbooth, which

last Tuesday of May, O. S. is Torot market, for cattle, horses, &c. now more frequented than any other in this part of the country; and though it stands within the limits of Monivaird parish, yet, being within half a mile of Crieff, more money is that day left among the inhabitants for liquors, clothes, groceries, and all sorts of merchandise, than on any other throughout the year.



which has a decent spire, containing the town clock, and a good bell, gifted in 1725, as its Latin inscription bears, by Lord John Drummond, uncle of James the third Duke of Perth. To that family the superiority of the greatest part of the town belongs, and the property of some of the best buildings, particularly a large and elegant assembly room, built in 1790, and frequently honoured with the presence of the chief nobility and gentry of Perthshire. Adjoining to that is the principal inn, where strangers of any rank may lodge comfortably, and where two chaises kept for hire are well employed; although in 1770, and again in 1780, an attempt to keep one had miscarried.

*Religion, Poor, &c.*—John Drummond was minister of Crieff, from 1699 to 1755. In his time none separated from the church, who had been previously of the establishment; but a number still adhered to the Episcopal mode of worship, whose forefathers in the preceding century, had, in Conformity to the wishes of the court, embraced Episcopacy. During the incumbency of Thomas Stewart, his immediate successor, about the year 1763, the Seceders of the class of Antiburghers formed there a congregation. Next in succession was the present minister, admitted in 1770. In his time arose the sect called Bereans, whose founder had been a private tutor in the parish, and formed some of his relations and connexions there into a party \*. These, with the Episcopalians and Papists, have no clergyman in

\* Rejecting established articles and confessions of faith, they hold the Bible to be the only certain rule of faith and manners. At the same time, they hold, that none can be saved, except such as have a full assurance of their own salvation, and that every one possessing this assurance is perfectly safe. That assurance, however, they do not pretend to build on the conformity of their actions to the rules of Christianity.



in the parish. The sect of Relief also was introduced there about the year 1785, through a ferment excited by the settlement of a minister on a reluctant congregation in the neighbourhood. They and the Seceders have each a clergyman of their own in the parish. What idea should be formed of the sectaries, considered either in a religious or political light, would perhaps be a fruitless inquiry; but as they do not maintain their own poor, they tend evidently to the diminution of the ordinary funds for maintaining the poor of the parish, for whom no assessment is made, and who are supplied merely from the collections at the church-door. These are more than doubled within the last 20 years, owing chiefly to the enlargement of the church, and consequently greater number of contributors; and partly to the increasing wages, or even luxury and vanity of the lower classes.—Collections for the poor were in 1772, L. 25 : 1 : 3; in 1792, L. 54 : 6 : 1. About the year 1780, female servants and others of that rank began first to wear ribbons. Conscious of attracting superior notice, superior charity was also displayed; and the result must have proved very considerable, had it continued to keep pace with the vast improvement in the dress of both sexes, during the short intervening period. For instead of the grave and solid productions of the country, the gay cloths, silks, muslins, and printed cottons of England, adorn on Sundays almost every individual. The collections, which would be much greater if all the heritors resided and attended the church, might tolerably support the poor that are natives of the parish, but are far from being sufficient to prevent begging, and to maintain the great number of poor that arise through the influx of indigent families from the Highlands, whose small stock joined to their labour supports them for three years without begging, after which



which they often fall upon the parish funds. Including such as are supplied weekly, 69 persons, all of different families, appear on the list as occasionally supplied in 1792; and to these might be added 26 more, who, as well as they, have been relieved from other sources of charity. For besides the collections, some of the heritors have at times been very liberal in their donations of meal and money, or wood for fuel; especially in the winter of that year, when peats had been lost by the wet summer, and coals greatly advanced in price, above 400 carts of wood were given *gratis* by two heritors, and money advanced by others to purchase coals. There is nothing, indeed, that the people in general feel more than the difficulty of procuring fuel \*.

*Language.*—The people speak the English language in the best Scotch dialect: although the Gaelic be commonly spoken at the distance of three miles north, or four west from Crieff, yet no adult natives of the *lowland* part of the parish can either speak or understand it. They have not even contracted the peculiar tone of that language, by their intercourse with the numerous Highland families now

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residing

\* The poorest families have nothing but sticks and broom, the next class have a mixture of wood, peats and coals; but those who can afford it, find coal alone by far the cheapest fuel, though it must be brought 22 miles by land carriage. As the price, however, of that article is somewhat advanced at the coal-mine, and the demand there become greater through various circumstances the rise accidentally produced here of late will hardly be removed by the scheme of fine toll-roads now in agitation, nor indeed by any thing else, except the success of those exertions now making to find coal in this neighbourhood. Nothing could be more advantageous to this part of the country than such an acquisition; and next to that, the forming a canal between Crieff and Perth, so soon as the progress of manufactures and of other improvements can afford the needful expense.



residing in the town. Many indeed of these understand no other language but the Gaelic, and their children born in Crieff speak that alone for a few years as their mother-tongue. The great number of these Highland families, their general poverty, their frequent ignorance in the grand subjects of revelation, their incapacity of deriving benefit from the public religious service performed in the English language, the happy effects to themselves and to society that might result from a proper regard paid to their interest and comfort, are all such, as justly to merit the humane attention and friendly aid of the Society for propagating Christian knowledge. A small annuity allotted to a prudent man qualified to instruct and catechize these people on Sundays, would be an undoubted act of piety and beneficence.

NUMBER



N U M B E R XXXIX.

TOWN AND PARISH OF INVERNESS,

(COUNTY OF INVERNESS, SYNOD OF MORAY, PRESBYTERY  
OF INVERNESS:)

*By the Rev. Messrs ROBERT ROSE, GEORGE WATSON,  
and ALEXANDER FRASER, Ministers of that Town and  
Parish.*

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*Name, Situation, Extent, Surface, and Climate.*

**I**NVERNESS was anciently written *Inverness*. The town of Inverness, from which the parish has its name, is situated at the mouth of the river Ness. *Inner* is Gaelic, and expressive of that situation. The river derives its name from Lochness, which is its source. Some promontories and headlands in our own and in other northern countries, are called Ness, as Buchanness, the Naes of Norway, Ness *quasi* nose, from its promineney. But no promontory is in Lochness \*. The parish of Inverness is 10 computed miles

\* This led some curious persons (Lowthorp's Abridg. of the Phil. Transf. II. 222.) to seek for the origin of the name in the traditions



miles long, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  broad. The appearance of the country is various ; it is partly flat, partly hilly, rocky and mountainous. The soil is fertile, the general character of it is, with some exceptions, a black loam, rather light, and on a gravelly bottom. The air is dry and healthy, consequently we are not afflicted with any peculiar disease. Fevers sometimes make their appearance, particularly in the spring and autumn ; but upon inquiry, we seldom fail of discovering the cause in the inattention and foolhardiness of the patient. Epidemical fevers rarely visit us. Fevers, it is believed, are not so fatal with us as formerly ; this is attributed to the cool regimen and antiseptics, which are the general practice. The small-pox which, before the introduction of inoculation, proved so sad a bar to the increase of the people, will soon in this parish, it is hoped, be no bar at all. The success which attends it has done away almost every prejudice in its disfavour. A square wright, who

ditions of old bards. By these traditions they were informed, that Nyfus, an Irish hero, had settled a colony of his countrymen in Strath-harick. The æra of this event is passed over in silence. Vestiges, however, of his castle and fortress are still to be seen, on the summit of Dun Dear-dill, a rock of high elevation, at a short distance from the lake. The rock had its name from Dornadilla, the Lady of Nyfus. This hero built a barge, and was the first who sailed the lake. Hence Lochness. We relish not the derivation from Nyfus, and will hazard a conjecture of our own. The two rivers which have their course through the country of Strath-harick, and discharge themselves in Lochness, are Carrigack and Fechloin. These rivers are remarkable for high cataracts, particularly Fechloin. In this river and near the mouth of it, is the Fall of Foyres, a tremendous cataract. This cataract attracts the notice of all travellers, and when a flood is in the river, strikes the beholder with astonishment. *E/s*, in the Gaelic language signifies a “waterfall or cataract.” The lake which is supplied with the water of this fall, might not unaptly be called Lochness, that is the lake of the cataract. The names of places, lakes and rivers, are not unfrequently taken from the most important and striking objects in their vicinity ; here the object is awfully striking, and the relation closer than that which is formed merely by vicinity.



who resides at the distance of two miles from the town, and who suffered in his family by the natural small-pox, is become, with the lower class of people, an inoculator. The first he inoculated was a child of his own, and an only child. He forcibly inculcates a sedulous attention to light bed-clothes, fresh air, cleanliness, and simple diet. He is a successful inoculator, and has the generosity to practise *gratis*. We have not heard of any remarkable instance of longevity in this parish. Persons of 80, and some years beyond that period, are not uncommon; a few we have known who survived 92 and 93 years, but not one who lived up to a full 100.

*Lake and River.*—Lochness is partly in this parish. It is 24 miles long, and at a medium 2 broad. Soon after the Revolution, it was sounded by one George Scot, with 500 fathoms, and afterward by a Captain Orton, with a whole barrel of plumb-line, but without success; no bottom could be found \*. Sir John Pringle, however, who in the year 1746 was with the army at Fort Augustus, says †, that the common soundings are from 116 to 120 fathoms, and that in one place they ran to 135. On the supposition that the soundings of either period were general over the whole lake, and not particular, confined to different parts of it, we cannot help considering the soundings of the latter period to be the more probable account. But when the great extent of the lake is attended to, it seems not unlikely that the former and latter soundings were in different parts of the lake. It is very probable that the latter soundings were in the south end of it, near which the army then lay in encampment. The soundings by George Scot and Captain Orton,

\* Lowthorp's Abridg. of the Phil. Transf. II. 222.

† On the Diseases of the Army.



Orton, were communicated to the Royal Society, by the Rev. Mr James Frazer, then minister of Kirkhill, near Inverness, who was a distinct and accurate person, as well as learned and ingenious: This gentleman relates to the Society, at the same time with the above, some curious observations he made on a small lake near Lochness, in these words: "To the westward of the castle of Urquhart, above 4 miles, stands the great mountain, *Meal fourvouny*, of a round, neat, high shape, and may be 2 miles perpendicular height from the lake. Upon the very top of this hill, there is a lake of cold fresh water, about 30 fathoms in length and 6 broad, no course or stream running to it or from it. I plumbed with 100 fathoms of small line, but could find no bottom. It is always equally full, and never freezes." Lochness and the river lie between the 57th and 58th degrees N. L. They were never known to freeze by the extremest cold experienced in so northern a climate. They not only do not freeze, but dissolve frost in bodies that are put into them. We have frequently observed washerwomen dip linens, when stiffened by frost, in the river to thaw them. The river in frosty weather smokes, and a thick fog hangs over it, which sometimes spreads to a considerable distance, and greatly mitigates the coldness of the air on either side. This is common to the lake\*.

The

\* Sir George Mackenzie, who was King's Advocate in the reign of Charles II. in a communication to the Royal Society, relates as follows. "Dr George Mackenzie who lives at Inverness told me, that he observes rosemary though uncovered to continue in the gardens about Lochness side, notwithstanding the last winter's long and violent frosts; whereas, a far less violent winter ordinarily kills all the rosemary which is in gardens, that lie in warmer places, and at the sea side. And though I live near it, and in a better soil and warmer situation, yet any winter more than ordinarily cold kills my rosemary, though covered over with straw and litter. This he attributes, (and I think upon good ground), to the warmth occasioned by those streams that frequently arise from that lake†."

† Lowthorp's Abridg. II. 22.



The water, notwithstanding, when taken out of the lake or river, freezes as soon as any other; and when the degree of cold is extreme, even the agitation of the water in carrying it to distant parts of the town, does not hinder its freezing by the way. The water is soft, has no mineral taste, and easily bears soap, and yet is believed to be impregnated with some mineral substance, for it proves laxative to persons who are not in the use of drinking it. This effect it has on horses. Travellers or their servants are therefore invariably directed by innkeepers to another stream to water their horses. The water, however, has no more effect on animals in the use of drinking it than any other water. We have not heard that it was attempted to investigate and ascertain, by chymical analysis, the component parts of the Ness water \*. The lake is navigated by

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\* The not freezing of Lochness has been ascribed by some to many fountains supposed to be in the lake, and by others to hot springs; but by Sir John Pringle (on the Diseases of the Army) to the great depth of the lake, Count Marfili observing that the sea, from 6 to 120 fathoms, is of the same degree of heat from December to the beginning of April. Now, says Sir John, it is reasonable to believe, that the great depths in fresh water, will be little more affected than those of the sea with the heat and coldness of the air, and therefore that the surface of Lochness may be kept from freezing, by the vast body of water underneath, of a degree of heat considerably greater than the freezing point. Another circumstance he says concurs; there is never any perfect calm upon the lake, and the wind blowing always from one end to the other, makes such an undulation as must much obstruct the freezing of the water. He says further, this account seems to be confirmed by an observation commonly made in the neighbourhood, which is, that when the water is taken out of the lake and kept from motion, it then freezes as soon as any other water. We know not whether the Count has ascertained the degree of heat in great depths of the sea with precision. It is not probable, however, that the heat arising merely from the depth of the great body of water underneath, and said by Sir John, on the authority of the Count, to be considerably greater than the freezing point, is so great as to counter-act



a King's galley, to supply the garrison stationed at Fort Augustus with stores. The stores are conveyed by land-carriage to the lake; for the river is not navigable beyond the harbour. The river is 6 miles long, dividing the parish and town unequally: it runs slowly, with placid majesty, never overflowing its banks, in a channel whose fall is scarcely 10 feet. In the river, at a short distance south from the town, is a delightful island. Several years ago, the trees in this island, discovered, from great age, strong symptoms of decay. The magistrates ordered them to be cut down, and their place to be supplied with a plantation of different species of forest-trees. This plantation thrives amazingly, and is a great ornament to the valley.

*Fish.*

act the coldness of the air and obstruct the freezing of the surface, when the thermometer is so low as 23 degrees under the freezing point, which it sometimes is in the parish of Inverness, if not lower. Sir John seemed to have been apprehensive of this, in adverting to the constant undulation of the lake. That Lochness, from its situation, is never perfectly calm, we believe to be nearly true. But we may be certain that the small lake, on the very top of Meal fourvouny, from its situation likewise, and having no stream running to it or from it, is at times perfectly calm, and yet it is as little liable to have ice as Lochness. The Ness water, indeed, when taken out of the lake or river freezes as soon as any other; but this is not owing to its being kept in a state of rest; for its constant fluctuation in water vessels, from the river to distant parts of the town, does not in hard frost obstruct its congealing by the way. The water, when taken out of the lake or river, whether kept at rest or in motion, freezes as soon as any other. It seems not then likely, that the not freezing of Lochness is comprehended in the principle of the Count Marfilli. Whatever it is which hinders the freezing of the lake, will readily be allowed to be that which hinders the freezing of the river, and which dissolves frost in bodies that are put into it, even at the distance of 6 miles from the lake, and to be that, which likewise occasions the smoking of the lake and river in frosty weather, and so remarkably mitigates the coldness of the air on their banks. If so, the heat owing merely to the depth of the great body of water underneath, and said to be considerably greater than the freezing point, will not go far, if indeed any way, in accounting for the not freezing of Lochness.



*Fish.*—In the river Ness are salmon, bull trouts, and flounders. The salmon-fishing begins on the 30th of November, and ends the 18th of September. The Berwick Fishing Company have fished this river near 40 years. They pay L. 230 a-year to the proprietors of the lower division of the river, and about L. 100 to the proprietors of the upper division, beyond the cruives and bulwarks, as a compensation for the Saturday stop, or breach in the bulwarks, from the setting of the sun on Saturday, till its rising on Monday; to which the heritors of this division, to let the fish pass upward, are entitled by statute. The quantity of salmon caught in the river is believed to amount, one year with another, to 300 or 350 barrels. In the beginning of the season, the salmon is packed in kits for the London market, and fetches a high price. The lease of the Berwick Fishing Company is nearly expired; it is said a renewal of it will not be obtained for less than double the present rent. There is but little of the salmon sold here, and that little, by favour to particular persons, at 3 d. the lb. The bull trouts are not packed, but sold here, and at 3 d. the lb.; some of them are very large, weighing from 10 to 12 lb. They generally, however, weigh only from 3 to 4 lb. The flounders are not good; their flesh, like that of all fresh-water flounders, is soft, and of indifferent flavour. The sea-coast is 3 miles long, and flat and sandy. The fish caught on this coast, are herrings, and garvocks, or sprats. The herrings are small, but very delicious, if dressed the day they are caught. They are only occasional visitants on this coast. In some years, there is not the least appearance of them; in others, less or more scanty; but a great and plentiful show may be said to be rather uncommon. Two or three adventurers on the bounty, in plentiful years, fished here, and it is said, with tolerable



rable success. This fishing, however, is so very precarious, that it cannot be supposed a preparation to any degree, beyond a trifling amount, will be made for it. The sprats are not seen so often as even the herrings. It is upwards of 20 years since we had them in great abundance, or it may be said at all, on this coast. The herrings and sprats are best in the months of September, October and November.

*Hills and Mountains.*—The most remarkable hill in this parish is Tom-na-heurich, near the town, on the west side of the river. It is a beautiful insulated mount, nearly resembling a ship, with her keel uppermost. This hill, in the year 1753, was inclosed and planted, chiefly with Scotch firs. The hill is composed of sand and gravel, and before it was planted, yielded only a short thin heath, and was of no advantage to the proprietor. This hill stands on a base, whose length is 1984 feet, and breadth 176. The elevation of the hill, from the channel of the river, is 250. The most striking mountains in this parish, form that range on the west side of the river, which is a continuation of the great chain, running from Lochlomond to the frith of Tain, known to antiquaries by the name of Drumalbin, and which divided the Scottish from the Pictish kingdom. In this range, on the summit of a rock, called Craig-Phatrick, are the remains of a vitrified fort, generally believed to be Pictish, and if Pictish, probably the remains of the Royal Seat at Inverness, of which Adamnan, Abbot of Jona, makes mention in his Life of the celebrated Saint Columba; hither, as Adamnan relates, the Saint repaired from Jona, and converted Brudius, the Pictish monarch, to the Christian faith. The elevation of Craig-Phatrick from the river is 1150 feet.

*Woods.*



*Woods.*—There are no natural woods in this parish, if we except an inconsiderable oak-wood, which is periodically cut for the bark. But this defect is amply compensated by the extensive plantations with which the parish abounds. In the extremity of the parish eastward, on the estate of Culloden, there is a plantation of Scotch firs and forest-trees of considerable extent. This plantation was completed above 70 years ago. It is of great advantage to the proprietor, and will undoubtedly be of still greater. The plantations on the estate of Kinmylies, in the western extremity of the parish, were begun about 35 years ago, and completed in a few years. On this estate every acre that was not capable of being improved to arable land was planted. Others followed this example. One gentleman in particular, who kept an exact account of his operations, planted 15,000 forest-trees of the following kinds : elm, ash, beach, oak, and sycamore, and 4 millions of Scotch firs, which occupy a space of 800 acres of Duncan, one of the Drumalbin range of mountains. In short, on the face of this range to the east, and as far as the property of the gentlemen in this parish extends to the west, with the exception of what was fit for arable land, and the oak wood formerly mentioned, from Lochness northward to the Beaully frith, an extent of six miles in length, is covered with thriving plantations. Beside these, there are several other plantations, and all in a thriving state. This business is still going on with little remission, so that in a few years it is likely there will not be a single useless acre in this parish.

*Agriculture, &c.*—Wheat, barley, oats, and pease, are sown in this parish. The wheat from the middle of October till the end of November, the barley from the middle  
of



of April till the latter end of May, and the oats and pease from the beginning of March till the middle of April. Some rye is sown mixed with oats, but beans may be said to be no crop at all in this parish. Generally the corn is not gathered in before the middle of October, rarely in September, and in some years not before the latter end of November. Potatoes are raised in great abundance, and are of very great importance. They constitute the principal part of the food of the lower class of the inhabitants for more than three quarters of the year. They are planted from the middle of April till the middle of May, and in drills with the plough. About the middle of August we begin to raise them for immediate supply; but the corn harvest business is completely ended before we raise them for storing. It may be observed here, that we know nothing in this parish of the disease called curled tops, which proves so prejudicial to this useful plant in some other places. Field turnips, white and yellow, are sown from the middle of June till the second week of July, and in drills. There is no hemp sown, and but little flax, and that for private use only. It would be tedious to mention the variety that still obtains in the rotation of crops. The most approved course, however, is gaining ground among us, and will, it is expected, become prevalent. Much is done in the way of inclosing, but much remains to be done. The value land derives from being inclosed is universally acknowledged. A field at the distance of about half a mile from the town was lately inclosed; when open it yielded only L. 8. rent. It was inclosed at the expense of between L. 25 and 30, and was sold at the price of L. 550, and reckoned by the purchaser a good bargain. Sea-ware, street and stable dung, and lime, are all used for manure. The sea-ware is much used by those who live  
near



near the shore. The English plough drawn by two horses, and without a driver, is now generally used. The lower class of farmers at some distance from the town, and in hilly and stony ground, use with a driver the Scotch plough, drawn by four small horses, or four or six oxen, or horses and oxen together. Lord Kames's harrows were tried here by some, but are discontinued. Drill ploughs and rollers of various kinds are used here. The draught horses of the better sort of farmers are from 14 to 16 hands high, and were a few years ago bought for from 10 to 12 guineas each. The price is now much raised, even to L. 16 and to L. 20. This has induced several in the parish to keep breeding mares, in which they will undoubtedly find their advantage \*. The land-rent of the whole parish was in the

\* *Price of Labour and Provisions.*—A ploughman has from L. 5 to L. 7 a-year, with 6 bolls, half oat and half bear meal, a house, kail-yard, land for potatoes; his peats are carried home likewise, and some have grafs for a cow; but the last is not common. These servants live comfortably, their wives are employed in little manufactures for clothing their own families and for sale, and sometimes in spinning for the manufactures at Inverness, and earn about 2 s. a-week. A woman farm servant's fee is L. 1, 12 s. and maintenance in the house, and a herd's wages are much the same. A mason's wages a-day, from 1 s. 6 d. to 1 s. 8 d.; a wright's from 1 s. to 1 s. 4 d.; a tailor's 6 d. with maintenance. Weavers and shoemakers work by the piece. Day-labourers at ditching, digging, and other out-work, from 8 d. to 1 s.; threshing of corn 8 d. the boll. Women-reapers 6 d. without maintenance. Men-reapers 8 d. or 10 d. no maintenance. Mowing rye-grass and clover, from 2 s. 6 d. to 3 s. 6 d. the acre, according to the weight of the crop, or 1 s. 6 d. the day. Women in weeding and hoeing potatoes, are paid at the rate of 5 d. the day.—There are two weekly markets at Inverness: beef, mutton and pork, cost from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  d. to 4 d. the pound. Veal and lamb at the beginning of the season may perhaps be reckoned dear, but afterward very reasonable. The old custom of laying up in salt a family's whole stock of beef for the year at Martinmas is long happily discontinued, and a far better obtains. Stall-feeding in this parish and the neighbourhood has been well understood for a considerable time, and practised to advantage, and



the year 1754, 3268 bolls and 3 firlots victual, and L. 575, 7 s. 11  $\frac{1}{3}$  d. Sterling. The boll at that period was valued to the tenant at 9 merks Scots or 10 s. Sterling, with customs and services, which were of little value to the proprietor, but often of distressing consequences to the tenant. The customs and services are abolished. The land-rent is risen far beyond double the above, and is still increasing, nor are the tenants by any means overburdened; they are much better able to pay the present rents than they were to pay the former, when oppressed by ignorance and indolence, customs and services. Many acres of waste land too have been improved since the year 1754, bearing luxuriant crops of corn, which add considerably to the rental of the parish. It cannot be said with precision what the number of acres in the parish is, as all the estates have not been measured. The number however cannot be under 5000 arable acres. At present lands let at from 13 s. to L. 2 an acre. Garden ground near the town lets at from L. 4 to L. 5. Few estates have been sold in this parish for many years. Lands were lately bought for no less than 35 years purchase, and lands too cultivated to the utmost, almost all garden-ground. There are about 50 heritors, 14 or 16  
may

and the markets are well supplied with beef of the best quality the whole year round. Hens and ducks are sold at 6 d. 8 d. or 9 d. each; chickens and ducklings, at 3 d.; a goose 1 s. 4 d. or 1 s. 6 d.; a turkey 2 s. 6 d. or 3 s. according to the goodness. The fish-market is well supplied with cods, haddocks, whittings, skates, flounders, &c. &c. in their seasons, all at moderate prices, rarely high, and some years herrings are in such abundance as to be sold not by tale but by measure. A Scots pint of warm milk is sold at 2 d. and of skimmed milk at 1 d.; a dozen eggs at 2 d.; cheese at from 4 s. to 5 s. the stone; fresh-butter for 8 d. the lb.; salt-butter at from 10 s. 6 d. to 12 s. the stone; oat-meal at from 14 s. to 17 s. the boll, nine stones to the boll; bear and pease meal at 11 s. and sometimes 14 s. the boll, ten stones; potatoes generally 6 d. the peck, they are sold by measure, the peck weighs 32 lb. Amsterdam. Butcher-meat, butter, cheese, and meal, are all sold here by the Amsterdam weight.



may be reckoned considerable. There are 4 of them non-residing; but on the estates of the non-residing heritors improvements are going forward in various kinds, as well as on the estates of those who constantly reside. The land-rent of the parish is not nearly equal to the expenditure of the proprietors; their other properties and resources are very considerable. The small tenantry are gradually wearing away; in a little time there will be none of them; the rents of the more considerable tenants are from L. 40 to L. 300. The farmer who pays the greatest rent in the parish has several subtenants. Monopolizing of farms began here about 25 years ago. This evidently affects the population of the country part of the parish; but fortunately the deficiency is more than compensated by the manufactures established in the town, which have increased considerably its population, and not a single individual is under the necessity of leaving his native home, to seek for employment and bread at a distance, in another country.—The horses in the parish amount to about 600; the black cattle 1000; and there may be about 1000 sheep, generally of the old small breed of the Highlands. One gentleman has a flock of about 100 of the black-faced Linton breed. They thrive well. There are in the parish 13 meal mills, 3 flour and 2 barley mills.

*The Town.*—Inverness is a royal burgh of great antiquity. Its first charter was granted by K. Malcolm Canmore. It always stood firm in its allegiance to the Crown, and maintained in ancient times with the neighbouring rebellious chieftains and their clans many desperate conflicts \*. The last charter in favour of the burgh was granted

\* The following names are traces of this state of hostility. On the west side, where irruptions were commonly made, and at some little distance from



ed by King James VI. From the date of this charter to the Revolution 1698, the inhabitants were an industrious, enterprising and thriving people; several opulent families now flourishing in the country, derive their distinction from the industry of ancestors who were merchants and guild brethren of Inverness. The principal source of their wealth was a commerce in corn and skins. The corn and malting trade was brought to a considerable height. The greater part of the town consisted of kilns and granaries. The export trade was carried on chiefly with France, the northern countries, and Holland. All the home consumption likewise in malt was supplied by them, that is of Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, Sutherland, Caithness, the Western Isles, and the Orkneys; for the art of malt making in these days was understood in this country chiefly by the corn-merchants of Inverness. The skin-trade, during the period under consideration, was singly of itself a source of great wealth. The people of all the extensive countries and Isles now mentioned resorted to Inverness, as the only or the most convenient market they then knew any thing of. In exchange for skins, they were supplied, some with meal, others malt, and all of them with dye-stuffs, salt, coarse linen and iron. From the Revolution to the year 1746, the burgh of Inverness suffered a gradual decline: So that at that time and several years after the town appeared little better than the ruins of what it formerly was. In the centre of the town there were many ruinous houses, and in all the other parts of it, every second space, and that by far the larger, exhibited the ruin of a kiln, a granary or other building. The causes of the failure of the corn-trade, after

from the town, there is a place called *Pallfaire*, that is 'The Watch Town;' a hill, *Tomnafaire*, 'The Watch Hill;' and a large stone, *Clachnafaire*, 'The Watch Stone.' Near this noted stone is a small fishing village, which is called by its name.



after a duty was granted by Government upon exported corn in the year 1688, are so complicated, that an attempt to unfold them on such an occasion as the present might be deemed unnecessarily tedious. Suffice it to say respecting the skin-trade, that the remote Highlanders and islanders by their agents found the way to Glasgow, which they have long considered as the more eligible market. In the year 1746, the town began to revive, and from that period to the present, particularly in the last thirty years, has been in a rapid progress of improvement. At this time it may be said to be wholly new built; its old limits are considerably extended, and yearly extending. The money circulated by the army after the suppression of the rebellion in the year 1746, the great influx of money from the East and West Indies, the establishment of manufactures, the consequent improvements in agriculture, the rise in the value of land, and the consumption of luxuries, are evidently the causes of the increasing prosperity of this burgh \*. The harbour is safe and commodious, and kept in excellent repair.

\* The town-council of Inverness consist of 21 members. They have a clerk and a clerk-depute. The old council every year at the term of Michaelmas elect a new council. The new council elect out of their number, a Provost, 4 Bailies, a Dean of Guild and a Treasurer. The Provost however is commonly continued in office for the space of 3 years. The Bailies, the Dean of Guild, and the Treasurer, for 2 years. There are 6 corporations of craftsmen, *viz.* Hammermen, including smiths, tin-smiths, copper-smiths, silver-smiths, watchmakers, braziers, cutlers, saddlers. 2d, Wrights, including house-carpenters, cabinet-makers, wheel-wrights and coopers. 3d, Weavers. 4th, Tailors. 5th, Shoemakers; and 6th, Skinners. These corporations elect annually at Michaelmas, 6 deacons and 6 box-masters or treasurers, each corporation its own peculiar deacon and box-master. The 6 deacons elect a deacon-convener, to preside over and to attend to the interests of all the corporations. They elect at the same time a general box-master. The 6 corporations are represented in the town-council by their deacon convener, who by virtue of his office is a member, and by two deacons annually elected by the town-council. There are besides the above several other crafts which are not corporate, *viz.* masons, cart-wrights, bakers, butchers, and barbers.



repair. Seven vessels belong to it, measuring from 400 to 500 tons, and manned by about 30 seamen, including apprentices. They are chiefly employed in carrying to London the produce of our manufactures, the fish of our river, and skins of goat, deer, roe, fox, hares, rabbits, and otter, with other articles. They bring in return materials both for use and for luxury. There are 9 boats manned by 6 men each.

*Manufactures.*—There are 2 tanneries and 1 tawing work in the town. The tanned leather is consumed at home; but the tawed is sent to London. These manufactures do not indeed employ many hands, but they are very beneficial to this country. There are 2 tallow-chandlers and 1 soap-boiler. These two do much work with few hands. There is a brick work in the neighbourhood of the town. This work is only in its infancy. The duty on the thousand is a dead weight on this work; 1s. on the 1000 would raise a much greater revenue. A hemp manufacture was established here above 30 years ago. This business at present employs, in spinning, dressing and weaving, above 1000 men, women and children. They earn from 1s. to 10s. a-week. The hemp is imported from the Baltic, and is manufactured into all kinds of cloth for bags, facking and tarpallin, consumed in Britain, and in the E. and W. Indies. A white and coloured thread manufacture is now established here about 10 years. This business employs, in heckling, spinning, twisting, bleaching and dyeing, near 10,000 persons, including men, women and children. They earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a-week. The company have in this and the neighbouring counties nineteen agents to manage the spinning departments. The flax is imported from the Baltic, and when manufactured sent to London, from whence it is dispersed over the world. There is on the Ness an infant bleachfield. It has many advantages, and promises to do well.



*Academy and Schools.*—The magistrates and gentlemen of the town and county of Inverness, and many of the gentlemen of the neighbouring counties, have long considered an establishment of a seminary of learning at Inverness, on a liberal and extensive plan, of very great importance to this part of the kingdom. At length, in the year 1787, a committee was appointed to consider of the most proper measures for bringing their purpose into effect. An extensive correspondence was immediately commenced, and subscriptions were opened in Scotland, England, France, America, in the E. and W. Indies. An inclosure of about 3 acres was purchased, and an elegant house is built in the front of it, consisting of a large hall, and six spacious apartments for classes, library, and philosophical apparatus. The subscriptions at present amount to above L. 6277 : 5 : 3 Sterling, and the magistrates, besides their private subscriptions, included in the above, give out of the public revenue of the town yearly to the institution about L. 70 Sterling. The house is provided with a rector and 4 masters. In the 1st class is taught English grammatically ; in the 2d, Latin and Greek ; in the 3d, writing, arithmetic and book-keeping ; in the 4th, Euclid's Elements, with their application, plane and spherical trigonometry, mensuration of solids and surfaces in all its parts, geography with the use of the globes, navigation with lunar observations, architecture, naval, civil and military, practical gunnery, fortification, perspective and drawing ; in the 5th, being the rector's, are taught civil and natural history, natural philosophy, chymistry and astronomy. The salaries of the masters are as follow : The rector, L. 50 and a house ; the teacher of mathematics, L. 40 ; the teacher of writing, arithmetic and book-keeping, L. 30 ; the teacher of Latin and Greek, L. 40 ; and the teacher of English, L. 30. The fees for each session, are, to the master of the 1st class, or  
teacher



teacher of English, 6 s.; to the master of the 2d, 12 s.; the same fees to the master of the 3d; the fees to the master of the 4th, 1 guinea; and to the master of the 5th, 1½ guinea. Over and above these fees, there is a small sum paid by each student to the rector. The number of students amounts already to above 200; for this is only the 2d session. This institution promises to be a very flourishing seminary. It has every advantage to recommend it. The town is healthful and pleasantly situated, and here are no improper avocations. Board too is very reasonable, and the masters are very well qualified for their several departments, as well as diligent in their attendance. The year is divided into two sessions. The 1st to begin from the 16th day of July, and to end on the 20th of December; the 2d to begin on the 5th of January, and to end on the 10th of June. The directors of the academy are, the provost, the 4 bailies, the dean of guild, the sheriff of the county, and the moderator of the presbytery of Inverness, for the time being; subscribers to the amount of L. 50 each, during their lives, and subscribers to the amount of L. 100 for their own lives and their heirs; with 5 gentlemen of the county, annually elected at the Michaelmas head-court. At the desire of the Highland Society of London, there is a class opened for teaching the Gaelic language, with a salary from them of L. 15 a-year, to which the directors have added L. 16. There is besides a prospect of an addition to the Gaelic teacher's salary from the Highland Society of Edinburgh. There is likewise a dancing school, and a music school well attended. They are under the patronage of the magistrates. They are detached from the academy.—There are besides, in the town and parish of Inverness, other 10 schools; 4 of which are established by the Society of Scotland for propagating Christian knowledge. In these 4, there are no less than 230 scholars. In the other 6, there are about 200.

*Population.*



*Population.*—According to the report made by Dr Webster, the population then was 9730.

TABLE of BAPTISMS.

| <i>Years.</i> | <i>Males.</i> | <i>Females.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1690          | 85            | 79              | 164           |
| 1710          | 117           | 92              | 209           |
| 1730          | 102           | 113             | 215           |
| 1750          | 83            | 82              | 165           |
| 1770          | 86            | 86              | 172           |
| 1780          | 109           | 93              | 202           |

In the year 1790, there were baptized 130 males, and 124 females, making together 254. There were married 72 couple, and there died 210.

From an actual survey, taken in the spring 1791, there were in the town and parish,

|                         |       |              |   |   |    |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------|---|---|----|
| Married persons,        | 2597  | Wrights,     | - | - | 41 |
| Widows and widowers,    | 592   | Journeymen,  | - | - | 34 |
| Males above 20,         | - 368 | Apprentices, | - | - | 29 |
| Females above 20,       | 763*  | Skinners,    | - | - | 12 |
| Males below 20,         | 1733  | Weavers,     | - | - | 57 |
| Females below 20,       | 1877  | Journeymen,  | - | - | 44 |
| Making together,        | 7930  | Apprentices, | - | - | 30 |
| Number in the town,     | 5107  | Shoemakers,  | - | - | 47 |
| Number of families in   |       | Journeymen,  | - | - | 16 |
| the town and parish,    | 1586  | Apprentices, | - | - | 15 |
| In the town, hammermen, | 28    | Tailors,     | - | - | 19 |
| Journeymen,             | - 4   | Journeymen,  | - | - | 13 |
| Apprentices,            | - 21  | Apprentices, | - | - | 18 |

The

\* The disproportion here is owing to the great number of servant maids employed in the town from other places.



The above are the 6 corporated trades. Besides the above, there are several other crafts which are not corporate, as masons and flaters, amounting to

|                          |   |   |     |                           |    |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----|---------------------------|----|
| Bakers,                  | - | - | 34  | Physicians and surgeons,  | 4  |
| Butchers,                | - | - | 14  | Apprentices,              | 3  |
| Barbers,                 | - | - | 23  | Clergymen,                | 4  |
| Perfumers and wigmakers, | 6 |   |     | Brethren of the guild,    | 70 |
| Apprentices,             | - |   | 8   | Sheriffs, depute and sub- |    |
| Gardeners,               | - |   | 13  | stitute,                  | 2  |
| Weavers in the hemp      |   |   |     | Writers,                  | 10 |
| manufacture, inclu-      |   |   |     | Messengers at arms,       | 3  |
| ded in the number        |   |   |     | Officers of the customs,  | 8  |
| employed there,          |   |   |     | Officers of excise,       | 8  |
| Millers,                 | - | - | 16  | Dyers,                    | 12 |
| Farmers,                 | - | - | 270 |                           |    |

*Poor.*—The number of poor at present on the roll amounts to 222, of which there are 68 stated pensioners, who are supplied, some of them weekly, and others quarterly. The pensions are from 25 s. each to L. 4 Sterling a-year; but the supplies occasionally given to a distressed family, frequently exceed the highest yearly allowance to a stated pensioner. The principal stock in the management of the kirk-session for the relief of the poor, in lands and bonds, is L. 2520:18:10. This stock is made up of legacies, chiefly in the last century. Another fund is the weekly collections; they amount, one year with another, to L. 70 Sterling. Besides these, there are two other funds in the trust of the kirk-session: The one a legacy of L. 166:13:4 Sterling, by the laird of Macintosh, the interest of which is applied to the education of two boys at the schools of Inverness; and the other by Mr George Duncan, late merchant here, in land, yielding L. 200 Scots a-year,



a-year, whereof one half is appropriated towards repairing the churches, and the other to the education of 6 boys, from the age of 10 to 14. The treasurer is always a respectable citizen, generally one of the magistrates, and his accounts are examined yearly.

*Prisoners in the Tolbooth in 1790, &c.*—Thirty for horse-stealing; 8 for petty thefts; 4 for threatening expressions; 1 for alleged wilful fire-raising, but liberated upon investigation; 1 for scandal and defamation; 3 for deserting their apprenticeships; a boy for alleged murder, liberated on investigation; 3 for violent assaults; 3 for child-murder; 1 for selling spiritous liquors without a license; 2 women of bad fame, for irregularities and misdemeanours; 5 men from Campbeltown for breach of the peace; 1 for deserting his Majesty's service; 17 for civil debts. In all 52. Several, however, of the above were committed in the years 1787, 1788 and 1789 \*.—Houses built in the last 14 years: In the town and parish, upwards of 60 of from 2 to 3 stories high, and about 70 thatched houses in the country and suburbs; some of the thatched houses are 2 stories high.—The public buildings are, the academy, the court-house, jail and spire, and the house built for the northern meeting. The court-house is roomy and well lighted, and the access to it easy. The jail is such as would give pleasure to the benevolent Howard. The spire was built by the architect of St Andrew's spire in Edinburgh, and is said to surpass it in beauty; the slender appearance of St Andrew's spire, arising from a defect in the proportion, renders it less agreeable. The house for the northern meeting is a large fabric, in which there is every

\* Criminals from the counties of Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Cromarty and Nairn, Moray and Inverness, are confined in this jail.



every accommodation to fit it for the purpose for which it was erected. The two public rooms are each of them 60 feet long, and 30 broad. One of the rooms is 20 feet high, and the other 18. There was expended on buildings, for public and private use, in the town and parish of Inverness, during the last 14 years, no less a sum, at a moderate estimation, than L. 50,000.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There are three ministers of the Established Church in Inverness. The patrons of the livings are, the King and the Honourable Mr Frazer of Lovat. The King is patron of the first and of the third living, and Mr Frazer of the second. The stipend of the first and second ministers, by a decret passed in the year 1754, is to each 84 bolls 1 firloft 2 pecks 2 lippies victual, half bear half oat-meal, and L. 541 : 8 : 6 Scots money. Each of them has a glebe ; but neither of the glebes is 4 acres. They have no manfes, though they are entitled to them by law \*. The third minister is paid out of the Bishop's rents of Moray and Ross. The stipend is precisely L. 108, 10 s. Sterling. The church for the English congregation was built in the year 1772, by the magistrates, in consequence of a compromise with the heritors, who were to have a preference of seats at an equitable yearly

\* In the year 1784, the presbytery's decret against the magistrates and heritors for repairing the two old manfes was suspended at the instance of the heritors. A long litigation followed. The second minister being an old man, withdrew from the prosecution. The first continued to insist, and was found entitled to a reparation of his manse. But it was alleged on the part of the heritors, that the first minister was actually in possession of the second minister's manse, a manse with which they had no concern, whatever the magistrates might. The minister was required to give in a proof of his possession of the first minister's manse, in which it was judged by the Court he failed. At this stage of the business, tired with a tedious and expensive litigation, he abandoned the process.



yearly rent. The church is an elegant structure. It is 92 feet long, and 45 broad, with a convenient session-house adjoined. A new church is now building for the Gaelic congregation, and will be completed in the course of next summer, at the joint and equal expense of the heritors on the one hand, and the Magistrates and six incorporations on the other. There was likewise added a sum of L. 110 Sterling, being the interest arising from Mr George Duncan's mortification formerly mentioned. This church is 76 feet in length, and 38 in breadth. There is a small Antiburgher congregation here; but they can afford very little for the support of their minister, whether the Associated Congregation add any thing to the living, we know not. There is a Scots Episcopal congregation, but small. There is likewise a Methodist meeting house, which is attended chiefly by the manufacturers lately come hither from other places.

*Roads and Bridges.*—There are 2 military roads which pass through this parish; and which are kept in good repair by Government. The other roads are equally well attended to. The statute-labour is partly commuted. There are 3 bridges, the principal of them is the bridge over the Ness, a beautiful structure of seven arches. It was built in the year 1688. It is a toll-bridge, by act of Parliament, and makes a good addition to the revenue of the town.

*Stills, Brewers, Retailers of Ale and Spiritous Liquors.*—There are 4 stills in the town and parish; 12 brewers of ale, 2 of whom are considerable, carrying on the business to a good amount. The retailers of ale and spiritous liquors are about 70. Of the lower class of people, there are some who love whisky rather much; but not so much,



it is believed, as formerly, their inclination begins to change towards ale and beer, a good and wholesome beverage.

*Clubs.*—There are two clubs in the town for supporting the members which belong to them in sickness and old age, and defraying the funeral expenses of themselves and their wives. The first is restricted to 161 members. Every member pays 30 s. into the box at entrance, 1 s. on the first Tuesday of every month throughout the year, 1 s. on the death of every member, and 6 d. on the death of every member's wife. They have in return, when sick and unable to work, 6 s. a-week during the first 6 months of their illness, and 4 s. a-week afterward, during their life, while they are unable to work, &c. The other club is formed on much the same plan; but pays only half the above sum at entrance, and the returns in proportion.

*Battles.*—There were in ancient times several unimportant rencounters and skirmishes in this parish. The only memorable battle was that of the 16th of April 1746. By a curious coincidence, the important and decisive battle of Culloden was fought on the moor of the paternal estate of that truly great and good man, whose influence in the Highlands, and unwearied perseverance during the two preceding years, made the suppression of a very alarming insurrection comparatively easy to Government. The services which, on this critical occasion, the Lord President Forbes rendered to his country, will be recorded by the faithful historian of the transactions of those times, with pleasure and the warmest gratitude.

*Miscellaneous Observations.*—The distresses of the lower class of the people, arising from the failure of the crop



1782, were very great. No person, however, in this parish, was known to have died of want, though probably it might have been otherwise, had it not been for the liberal and seasonable supplies given by Government, and by a very respectable native of this parish, James Baillie, Esq; merchant, of London. Mr Baillie's munificence at this season of sore calamity, does him the highest honour, and must necessarily be to him a perpetual source of heart felt pleasure. A public granary in Inverness would be an improvement of very great importance. The Geneva granary, mentioned by the patriotic Lord Gardenston, in his travelling memorandums, is an excellent model. The great disadvantage this town and parish labours under, is from a scarcity of fuel. The moorlands in the neighbourhood are either exhausted, or inclosed and planted. Peats are bought at a high price, and at the distance of 5 miles from the most populous part of the parish. Much of the summer is spent in bringing them home. This is a manifest detriment to their agriculture. If the coasting duty on coals were taken off, and a coal-yard kept in the town, to supply those who are not able to lay up a store for the winter, agriculture would be greatly benefited, several manufactures established, to which the present high price of coal is an insuperable obstacle, and the labouring poor of this town and parish have much less cause to complain of their condition. A navigable canal, from the west sea at Fort William, to the east sea at Inverness, would no doubt be greatly beneficial to the country at large, but more immediately to a very extensive tract of the Highlands, which is now covered with sheep, and almost depopulated. Woollen manufactures would soon be established, other manufactures follow of course, villages and the cheerful haunts of men insensibly arise, and population in a few years increase amazingly, in a district, which,



alas! at present, is dreary to the traveller, filling him with melancholy and dejection of heart.—But however beneficial this canal would ultimately prove to Britain, yet the trade on it can hardly be supposed to arrive for years to come at that degree of importance, which ought to induce private persons to subscribe for executing the work. Happily Government looks not in their projects of improvement for immediate returns. The increase of the number, and of the industry and of the skill of the people are their objects. To favour these important objects, every exertion should be made. The consideration of a temporary expense, though much more considerable than what can be required in the present case, where indeed nature has left little to be done, will not, we trust, by such a government as we have the happiness of living under, be put in the balance with great and permanent national advantages.—Many in this town and parish complain, and not without cause, of multures and pigeon-houses. The laws respecting multures and pigeon-houses are not founded in equity. They are palpably oppressive, and unworthy of even the stern aristocracy of these ignorant and barbarous times in which they were enacted.—The Royal, British Linen Company, and Aberdeen Banks, have each of them an office at Inverness. There are two opinions respecting the consequences of these offices in this country. But whether credit shall prove an advantage or a disadvantage to a people, can be determined only by an appeal to their character. If they are composed of spendthrifts and profligates, nothing can be more evident than that credit will precipitate their ruin; but if, on the contrary, of skilful, industrious and prudent individuals, it is equally indisputable, that credit will greatly contribute to accelerate the prosperity of such a people, and to diffuse happiness over the whole face of their country.—The  
inhabitants



inhabitants of the town and parish are decent, and regular in their attendance on the public ordinances of religion. They are well affected to the government of their country, good neighbours, and industrious in their several occupations. Instances of dissipation and profligacy are rare. Their modes and habits of living have undergone, during the last 30 years, an alteration greatly to the better. Even the lower farmers and cottagers are by far more industrious than they were formerly, more cleanly in their persons and houses, and improved considerably in their apparel. They make a pleasing appearance on Sundays. Such as are employed in manufactures, are not only well clothed, and cleanly in their persons and houses, but live more plentifully, and are better and more comfortably lodged than the lower farmers and cottagers. The craftsmen in the town, are, on holidays, it may be said, finely apparelled, and their wives, as far as dress is concerned, appear like gentlewomen. Their houses are clean and neat, and their boards abundantly provided with animal as well as vegetable food. Tea equipages, in their opinion, are now become necessary. Many of them for their station are wealthy. Several build houses, which yield yearly rents of from L. 20 to L. 30, and others of them purchase land to the extent of several acres, near the town, at high prices, but which, by inclosing and hedging, they turn to good account. The more opulent inhabitants, perhaps hardly surpass their predecessors of the last century, in richness of dress or sumptuousness of entertainments. But in the elegance of the table, in the display of the side-board, in the costliness of furniture, in the decorations of their houses, and in the number of apartments thought necessary for the accommodation of a family, they are not the same people they were 30 years ago. The present times are likewise distinguished by the number of carriages in the town



town and country parish. About 30 years ago, there was only one chaise, a four-wheeled one; but at this time, there are 2 coaches, 12 four-wheeled chaises, and 1 two-wheeled; 6 of the four-wheeled chaises are let for hire by innkeepers. The principal inns in town were indifferent till of late; they are now commodious and comfortable, and, in attendance, entertainment and beds, emulate the best inns in the southern parts of the kingdom. There are in the town subscription assemblies, and occasional balls and concerts of music. Companies of comedians find their way to Inverness, and it is believed they have no cause to discontinue their visits, nor is it improbable, that in a few years a theatre will be erected. In the town and country parish, we have several convivial clubs. Their meetings are frequent and stated; but they are strangers to the coarse excess of former times, and its unhappy consequences.

*Antiquities.*—There was founded at Inverness, in the year 1233, by King Alexander II. a convent, not of Franciscans or Gray Friars, as erroneously handed down by oral tradition, (Spottiswood) but of Dominicans or Black Friars, called also, *Fratres prædicatores*, because of their frequent preaching. They were a mendicant order, instituted by St Dominic the projector of the Inquisition\*. There were

2

\* King David II. confirmed to them, decem libras Sterlingorum in dotationem ecclesiæ suæ annuatim, percipiendas defirmis dicti burgi, which were given them by his father, 21mo. Octobris anno regni sui 8vo. His confirmation is dated at Edinburgh 20mo. diei Aprilis anno regni sui 30mo. This begging fraternity regardless of their vow of poverty acquired much property in land in this parish and probably elsewhere. Their building stood till the interregnum. Cromwell directed a citadel to be built at the mouth of the river. The religious houses at only a little distance, was considered as a very convenient quarry. The monastery, the church



a few years ago, near the town, due east from it, on the upper plain of the parish, several Druidical temples. At present there is only one temple entire. They were blasted for the purpose of building farm houses and offices. Stones are scarce, and at a great distance, and the temples stood on cultivated and fertile fields. In this, (under the Druidical œconomy,) sacred portion of the parish, there are several places in the parish, called in English, Drakies, as Easter Drakies, Wester Drakies, Mid Drakies, and in Gaelic, Dregge, both evidently corruptions of *Druidhe*, the plural of *Druì*, a Druid. Many places in Britain, France and Ireland, still bear the name of the Druids, as Dreux in France, the place of their annual general assembly.—There is, at some distance from the mouth of the river Ness, a considerable way within flood mark, a large cairn of stones, the origin of which is of very remote antiquity. It is called Cairnairc, that is, the cairn of the sea. There is a beacon erected on Cairnairc, to apprize vessels coming into the river, of danger from it. In the Beaully frith, due west from this cairn, there are three cairns at considerable distances, one from the other. The largest is in the middle of the frith, a huge heap of stones. This cairn is accessible at low water. It appears to have been a burying place, by the urns which were discovered in it.

If

church and the chapel were demolished, and the single visible remain of all the buildings, is the shaft of one of the columns which supported the roof of the church. The pedestal, and it is believed, a great part of the shaft are concealed with earth and rubbish. The monastery yard is become the glebe of one of the ministers, and the site of the church, a small burying place. The chapel yard is the principal burying ground, an inclosure of about 6 acres. This spacious yard, the old walls having failed in many places, was inclosed a few years ago with high walls coped with freestones. The gate of the inclosure is handsome. The old gate was arched, and the arch crowned with ornaments of the various kinds of vertical dials bore this inscription, ‘*Concordia parvæ res crescunt.*’



If these cairns are sepulchral monuments, as by the discovery of urns they unquestionably are, it seems difficult not to be convinced, that the space between the mouths of the Ness and the Beauly, now covered by the Beauly frith, was dry land, and that the sea gained upon it, after these monuments were erected \*. The Beauly frith is six miles in length, and two in breadth. There was, a few years ago at Kilvean, a great number of small cairns overgrown with heath. They occupied about the space of an acre, on a pretty extensive plain, and were inclosed by a ditch of an orbicular form †.

*Places of Defence.*—Oliver Cromwell's fort was mentioned above, soon after the Restoration it was demolished, and every material of any value sold to the inhabitants of Inverness. Nothing remains of this citadel besides the interior work of the ramparts, which form a regular pentagon, surrounded on four sides by a ditch, and by the river on the fifth, and inclosing a superficies of precisely 4 acres. When the sea flows, the ditch is filled with water. The castle near the river, on the western extremity of the hill which

\* Lowthorp's abridg. Vol. iii. Edit. 3d. p. 538.

† These cairns in the course of the proprietors improvements were removed, but by ignorant persons who wrought by the piece, and had neither leisure nor curiosity for observation. There are many monuments of this kind still to be seen in the Highlands of Scotland; several cairns from time to time were examined and urns found. The large cairns seem to have been the burying places of the chiefs and heads of families, and the small cairns inclosed as above, the burying places of the common people. It appears, that the raising of cairns for sepulchral monuments in honour of distinguished personages did not cease with the practice of burning the dead in this country. There is a very large cairn near the river at the foot of a hill, called Torvean. It some years ago was partly removed, a coffin was found composed of six thick flags. This is supposed to be the dormitory of Bean, a saint of the Culdee order, from whom the place and hill derive their names.



which covers the town, was destroyed during the Rebellion 1745, together with the contiguous barracks. Nothing now remains of either but rubbish. This was an irregular fortification, and consequently of little strength after the invention of gunpowder and ordnance. The castle is supposed to have been built by King Malcolm Canmore. The barracks, with slender ramparts, were erected in the last reign. The Thane of Calder's castle was built on the eastern extremity of the hill. It was razed to the ground by Malcolm, in detestation of the murderer of his father, and unjust possessor of his kingdom for seventeen years. There is not a vestige of this castle to be seen, *Seges, ubi Troia fuit*. Fragments of bricks at times are turned up by the plough. The remembrance of the theatre of Macbeth's ambitious villany, however, is preserved in the old charter names of the lands which belonged to it. A family likewise of considerable antiquity, the Cuthberts of Castlehill, derive their designation from the site of Macbeth's castle. Though this family is here only incidentally mentioned, there may perhaps be no great impropriety in remarking, that Colbert, the prime minister of Lewis XIV. was a cadet of it, that his illustrious descendants recognised, and still recognise, their origin in the family, that sons of it ranked high in the church and armies of France, and that the bishop of Rodez, is brother to Lewis Cuthbert, Esq; Provost Marshal of Jamaica, the representative of the family. There was, on the estate of Culduthill, at the distance of somewhat more than a mile from Inverness, an old castle, no trace of it now appears but the ditch with which it was fortified, and some rubbish of slime and small stones. Tradition gives this castle to the Cummings\*.—The vitrified

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fort,

\* The name it bears, however, would be more suitable to a convent of Monks, than to a castle of that once powerful and splendid family.

It



fort, on the summit of Craig-Phatric, near Inverness, is a very remarkable structure. It has attracted the notice of the antiquary. There are different opinions respecting its origin. Some maintain, that the vitrification is the effect of a volcano, others the work of art; but Mr Frazer Tytler, who treated this subject in the second volume of the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, endeavours to prove, that the vitrification is the result merely of accident, the ruin of an ancient fort destroyed by fire. Of old, structures for habitation and defence, according to Mr Frazer Tytler, were composed of two parallel rows of strong pallisades, at the distance of some feet from each other, closely interwoven with boughs, and of earth, stones of various sizes, boughs and trunks of trees filling the intermediate space. The Riempiuta hypothesis is ingenious. Some, however, by this hypothesis, may find it difficult to account for the prodigious mounds of vitrified matter on the east side of the rock. An attentive examination of the vitrified work, is not favourable to the abettors of the volcanic hypothesis, who maintain, that the ramparts were built with lava, a material,

It is called in English, Castle Bathers, a corruption of the Gaelic name, Caistal nan leoirach, that is the castle of "the recluse or retired," a monastery in Gaelic is indifferently termed Manachinn, the residence of the Monks, or Leoirnamanach, the retreat or retirement of the Monks. In Lochness at the north end of it, there is on a small island the ruin of an old building called Castle Spiritin, evidently a corruption of Spairtin, that is "the water dashed castle," Spairt, signifies a "dash or splash of water," Spairtin, "dashes of water." The proprietor says, that about 200 years ago this castle was the mansion-house of his family, and yet no account can be given of its origin, but from conjecture. According to some it was a royal Pictish castle, and the scene of King Brudius's conversion to the Christian faith, Adamnan in his History of St Columba relating that this important event was accomplished by the saint in a royal seat near Inverness. But according to others, this little castle is of a far less ancient date. It was, they say, an appendage of the superb seven towered castle of Urquhart, universally ascribed to the great family of the Cummings.



material, with which, according to them, the rock abounded, and of more easy acquisition than stones. In the Philosophical Transactions for the year 1777, part ii. No 20. the Secretary says, "Specimens of the burnt matter of Craig-Phatric, near Inverness, had been well examined by some of the members well acquainted with volcanic productions, and had been by them judged to be real lava." How strong and respectable soever, the authority of this judgment may appear, it can have no force with those who have been upon the rock, and examined with attention the ramparts, which are composed, not of individual blocks, but of continued, extensive and unbroken masses. The ramparts exhibit evident proofs of their having undergone the process of vitrification, on the very foundations which they at present occupy, and consequently are not volcanic productions \*.

\* In many of the Highland hills, there are great quantities of vitrified matter. It is seen collected into small heaps. There is in some places only one heap, in others there are two, but not above three in any place together. This matter is in great abundance on the hills of Eyfick and Borlum belonging to the parishes of Inverness and Dores. Round each of the heaps there is a circle of grit, evidently fragments of the vitrified matter worn down by time and the weather. On this circle no plant is observed to vegetate. A small tenant on the hill of Borlum upon his coming into his little uncultivated possession, chose a spot for a garden on which there were two heaps of the vitrified matter, he removed them, but deemed his labour lost, for during a residence of several years, no plant would grow where they stood. These vitrifications are curious. We unquestionably are much in the dark respecting the history of the ancient inhabitants of this country and their arts.—There is at the distance of 2 miles south from Inverness, not far from the military road, and on the west side of it, the ruin of a large structure. It was raised on an eminence of about 30 feet above the surrounding plain. There are no traces of the form of this structure. It was one of the many ancient buildings which according to some were erected before the date or the knowledge of mortar and iron in this country, as no vestige of the hammer or of any kind of cement appears. Hundreds of loads of the stones of this ruin were lately carried to Inverness.

END OF VOLUME NINTH.







## A P P E N D I X.

*Containing Additional Information with respect to some  
Parish Accounts printed in former Volumes.*

No. XXXV. KELLS. Vol. IV. p. 259.

*Communicated by the Rev. Mr GILLESPIE, Minister of that  
Parish.*

**K**ENMORE CASTLE, the seat of the Honourable John Gordon of Kenmore, is beautifully and romantically situated at the head of Loch Ken, half a mile south of the burgh of New Galloway. It stands on a circular mount, partly natural, and partly artificial. It has been surrounded by a fosse supplied with water from the Ken, with which it has had a communication, but now dry and filled up with earth. When, or by whom this castle was built, is uncertain. It is said to have been the seat of the *Gelasi Reguli*, or rulers of Galloway; and afterward of John Baliol, lord of Galloway, and king of Scotland. It suffered from the ravages of war, and was twice burnt down; first in the reign of the unfortunate Queen Mary, and again in the days of Cromwell. A great part of it has been since



since repaired, and is now fitted up in an elegant style by the present proprietor; and though the outworks are mostly thrown down, and part of the walls stand naked and unroofed, it still retains much of its ancient grandeur, and will always be admired for the extent and strength of its building, and beauty of its situation, which is allowed to be one of the finest in the south of Scotland. Here is an excellent library, consisting of several thousand volumes, and which has been greatly augmented and enriched by Mr Gordon the present proprietor.

The following tradition, omitted in my statistical account of Kells, comes with so many circumstances of probability, that I am convinced it must have had some foundation in fact. The scene indeed is in the Kells, but the rest of the history belongs to the parish of Minnigaff, and will perhaps be mentioned in the statistical account of that parish. It is as follows: There is a large flat of moss lying along the Dee, on the west side of this parish, called Moss Raplock, there a battle is said to have been gained by Robert Bruce, over the English, who possessed a strong fort at Craigoncalzie, 2 miles west of this moss. This is confirmed by the following circumstances: Several pieces of spears, and other warlike instruments have been dug out of this moss, and a large stone stands in the midst of it, called the King's Seal. And it is said he had an easy victory, owing to the following stratagem: Three young men, the sons of a widow woman, by 3 different husbands, who had been very active in the service of the king, collected a great number of goats and deer, and on the day of the battle drove them to the top of a high hill over-against the English army, who mistaking them (with their branchy horns standing up like spears,) for another army coming to attack them, were intimidated, and fled with precipitation, and soon after abandoned the strong fort of Craigoncalzie, where  
Bruce



Bruce took up his residence, and where there is still an old building called Bruce's Walls. Soon after the battle, he visited the mother of these young men who had done him such signal service, and she requested as a reward, all the lands lying between the burns of Penkill and Pilneur, an extent of country 10 miles long and 5 miles broad, lying in the parish of Minnigaff, and which he readily granted them, and which continued the property of men of the name of Murdoch, Mackie, and Maclurg, till within the memory of some men still living. Their descendants are still farmers in that neighbourhood, where they say their ancestors have dwelt near 300 years.

Some think this to be the battle mentioned by Buchanan, as fought by king Robert Bruce near the river Cree, which he might easily have mistaken for the Dee; but this is the less probable, as there is the vestige of a battle fought near Machre moss, on the side of the river Cree, which is said to have been gained by Robert Bruce over the English, of which mention will probably be made in the statistical account of Minnigaff.

I also omitted in my account, to mention the vestiges of a wall or stone dike running from S. to N. 10 miles through this parish; yet it is said to begin at the sea, and to run N. through Girthon, Kells, and Carsphairn, into the shire of Ayr, upwards of 30 miles. This wall has no doubt been a limit between two chiefs, but who these chiefs were, or when this wall was built, which is now in ruins, tradition does not say.

Another fact come to my knowledge, is, that Mr Gordon, translator of Tacitus, and author of the Independent Whig, &c. was a cadet of the family of Kenmore, and born in this parish of Kells, and not at Shermers in the parish of Balmaclellan, as mentioned by Mr Thomson in his statistical account of that parish.



No. XXVIII. DALMENY. Vol. I. p. 227.

*Communicated by the Rev. Dr ROBERTSON, Minister of that Parish.*

## THE STORM,

A Poem, by Dr WILKIE, Author of the *Epigoniad*, &c. and composed before he was 10 years old, while at the School of Dalmeny.

WHAT penetrating mind can rightly form  
A faint idea of a raging storm?  
Who can express of elements the war;  
And noisy thunder roaring from afar?  
This subject is superior to my skill;  
Yet I'll begin to show I want not will.

A pitchy cloud displays itself on high;  
And with its sable mantle veils the sky:  
Fraught with the magazine of heaven does throw  
Bolts barb'd with fire upon the world below.  
All nature shakes and the whole heavens smoke;  
Nor can the gross black cloud sustain the shock:  
But op'ning from its magazines doth roll,  
Thick smoke and flames of fire from pole to pole.  
Thence hail, snow, vapour, mixed with flames of fire,  
With conjunct force against the earth conspire.  
Monsters of sea and land, do loudly roar,  
And make the deep resound from shore to shore.  
The spumy waves come rolling from afar  
And with loud jars declare the wat'ry war.  
They upward mount and raise their crests on high,  
And beat the middle regions of the sky.  
Downwards they fall upon the swelling deep,  
And toss the rigging of some low sunk ship:  
Upwards they tow'r and falling down again,  
They bury men and cargo in the main.  
The boiling deep doth from her low sunk cell  
Throw out black waves resembling those of Hell.  
They forward roll and hideously do roar,  
And vent their rage against the rocky shore.

[Anno 1731.]



























Sinclair, John, Sir, 1754-1835

The statistical account of Scotland drawn up from the communication of the  
ministers of the different parishes

Bd.: 9

Edinburgh (1793)

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